## Being Transparent – This Shouldn't be Spin



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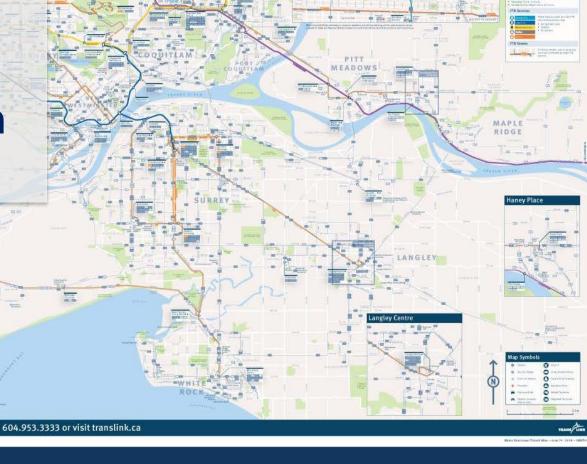
## WHAT DOES TRANSPARENCY MEAN TO YOU?

### Metro Vancouver Transit Map

An integrated regional multimodal transportation authority

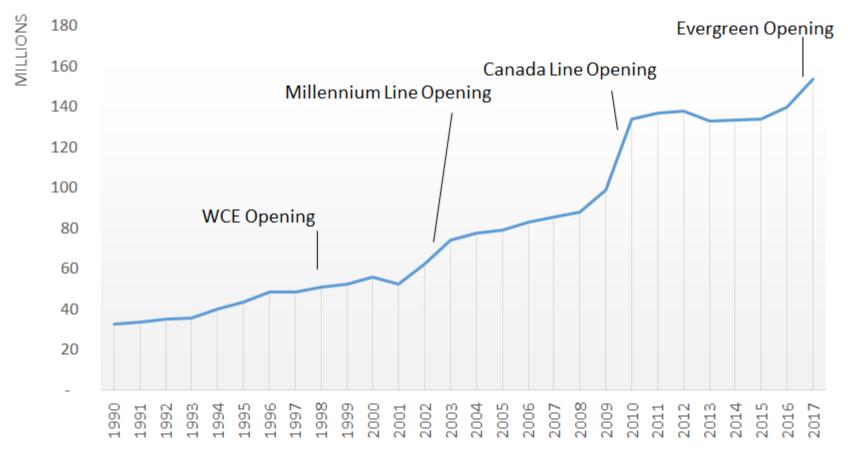






## **RECORD RIDERSHIP**

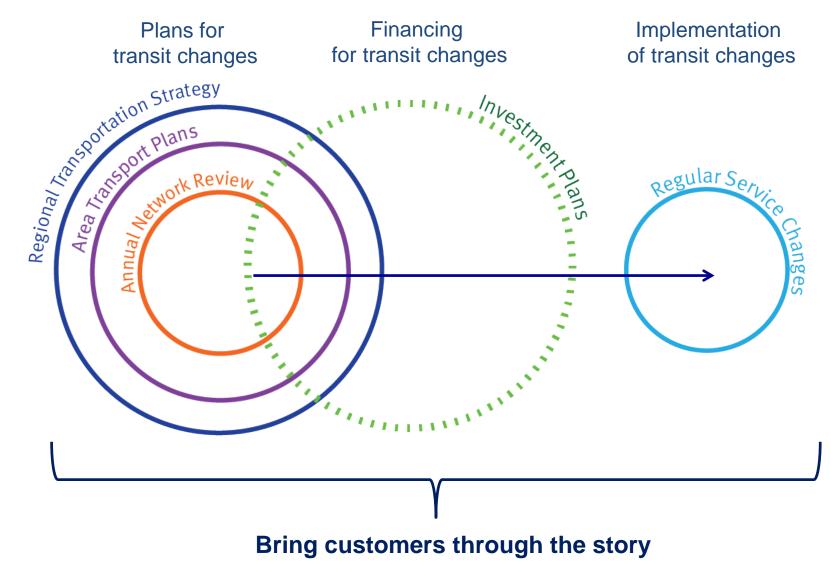
Growth in Rail Rapid Transit Boardings\*



\*Rail includes Expo/Millennium Line, Canada Line, and West Coast Express. Boardings 1990-2015 are re-estimated to control for change in estimation methodology post-Compass



## **MEANINGFUL NARRATIVE**





### **EVERGREEN EXTENSION AND BUS INTEGRATION**





### **CHALLENGES**



New rail line was going to change how customers access the transit network

# No additional funding for expanding transit

Customer demand continued to grow and shift



## **OPPORTUNITIES**



Build a narrative linking the different planning phases

Leverage what we heard during the planning phases

Change customer behaviour



## **PLANNING PRIORITIES**





## **COMMUNICATIONS PRIORITIES**





## **ACHIEVING TRANSPARENCY:**

### TECHNICALLY ACCURATE AND PLAIN LANGUAGE

## **BE ACCURATE**

#### O Burrard Station to Coquitlam Station



- O Burrard Station to Port Coquitlam Station
- Burrard Station to Pitt Meadows Station
- O Burrard Station to Maple Meadows Station

|                          | Current<br>via Expo Line & TrainBus | Proposed<br>via Expo Line, Millennium Line & 701 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Avg Travel Time          | 75 mins                             | 75 mins  |
| # of Transfer            | 1                                   | 2  |
| # of Midday (M-F) Trips  | 2                                   | 26   |
| # of Evening (M-F) Trips | 3                                   | 12   |
| # of Weekend Trips       | 0                                   | 65   |
| Last Trip                | 8 p.m.                              | 12 a.m.+   |



## **COMMUNICATE CLEARLY – NO JARGON**

### **Bi-directional** service

### Endangered bus route

The 517 is set to be truncated in December (but not eliminated). It won't run this far east after that point.

nterimed NETWORKLEGIBILITY Bus revenue hours are available to be reinvested where customers need them most

## **Bus Capacity**

off-street bus layover facilities.

Frequent Transit



### **ACHIEVING TRANSPARENCY:**

## IDENTIFY TRADEOFFS AND VALIDATE DECISION MAKING

### **IDENTIFY ALL TRADEOFFS**

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#### Select a package: Southwest Coquitlam (143 / 151 / 153 / 157)

#### Southwest Coquitlam (143/151/153/157)

Improving capacity and introducing direct connections to SkyTrain

#### **Proposed Changes**

- Introduce the 'New D' between SFU and Burguitlam Station
- Provide consistent and direct 151 service along Como Lake Avenue
- Discontinue the existing 143
- Extend the 153 to Moody Centre
- Extend the 157 to Burguitlam Station
- · This route is also part of another package of changes: SFU Burnaby Mountain



Click and drag the slider bar left and right to compare the current network map with our proposed changes map.



#### Why are we proposing changes?

- The Evergreen extension will provide faster and more frequent connections to Downtown Vancouver and the whole region via the SkyTrain
- · Integration between bus and SkyTrain is key in delivering a faster and more convenient service
- · Travel options between Poirier and Central Port Moody are limited
- · There is no weekend service to SFU or along Como Lake Avenue

#### Benefits/Trade-offs

- · More direct connections to SkyTrain and local activity centres
- Provide a high capacity, frequent, limited stop service between SFU and Burquitlam Station
- · Consistent and frequent weekday service between Port Coguitlam and Coguitlam Central stations
- · Weekend service to SFU and along Como Lake Avenue
- · New transit coverage in Port Moody, north of Como Lake Avenue, along Thermal Drive
- Passengers travelling to SFU from Coquitlam must transfer at Burquitlam Station

#### Additional Information

- · 152 or 156 provide alternative travel options
- 151: via Como Lake Avenue, Spuraway Avenue, Coquitlam Central, Lougheed Highway, and Shaughnessy Street
- 153: via Burnette Avenue, Laurentian Crescent, Poirier Street, Linton Street, Como Lake Avenue, Thermal Drive, Morary Street, St. Johns Street, Ioco Road, and Murray Street
- 157: via Lougheed Highway, Marmont Street, Rochester Avenue, Schoolhouse Street, Poirier Centre, Foster Avenue, and Cottonwood Avenue (northbound) or Como Lake Road and Blue Mountain Street (southbound)
- 'New D' via Burquitlam Station, Como Lake Avenue, Gaglardi Way, and University Drive
- Changes were identified in the Northeast Sector Area Transit Plan (2015)

#### У Tweet 💽 Share



## **VALIDATE DECISION-MAKING**

#### **Central Tri-Cities**

(97 B-Line/160/190/C24)

Maintaining frequent, local connections to rapid transit

#### Proposal

#### Proposed changes

- Discontinue 97 B-Line and the 190
- Increase C24 capacity by converting to a conventional bus during peak periods
- Revise the 160 to operate between Port Coguitlam and Brentwood Town Centre
- Redesign 160 to serve all local stops

#### Why did we propose changes?

- The Evergreen Extension will provide faster and more frequent connections to Downtown Vancouver and the whole region via the SkyTrain
- Integration between bus and SkyTrain is key in delivering a faster and more convenient service
- Most 97 B-Line, 160 and 190 customers are likely to shift to the Evergreen Extension

#### Benefits/Trade-offs

- More consistent and easier to understand service, especially along Guildford Way
- Faster service and decreased travel time for customers connecting to SkyTrain
- 160 customers travelling to Downtown Vancouver have the option to transfer to SkyTrain or the proposed Hastings B-Line



#### What we heard

#### Responses received

- 1,261 completed surveys
- Ten additional comments received by mail, phone or email

#### Level of support for the proposed changes

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding,

| 15%         | 24% | 11% | 16% |                 | 33%   | 19 |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|-------|----|
| STRONGLY SU |     |     |     | STRONGLY OPPOSE | ■ N/A |    |

### **Central Tri-Cities**

(97 B-Line/160/190/C24)

#### What we heard

Recurring themes in the feedback include:

#### Opposition to losing one-seat ride to Downtown Vancouver

- 49 per cent of respondents opposed or strongly opposed the proposed changes because they expect a longer travel time with the removal of a one-seat ride on bus to Downtown Vancouver.
- Some respondents expressed that they would consider taking route 160 and connecting to the Hastings B-Line to pay a one-zone bus fare, rather than pay more for a faster journey on SkyTrain.

#### Concerns that Evergreen Extension won't serve all existing customers

- Some respondents expressed concern that the SkyTrain won't start service early enough for customers who need to travel early in the morning.
- SkyTrain stops were noted by some to be too far apart, whereas existing 97 B-Line stops are much closer.

#### Support for increasing capacity on C24

 Respondents supported the proposal to increase capacity on C24, agreeing that the route needs full-size conventional buses in peak periods, especially for Port Moody Secondary School students.

#### Requests for east-west local service on Hastings Street

- Respondents in Burnaby are concerned that with change to the 135 there wouldn't be a route serving local stops that link Burnaby's east-west on Hastings Street.
- Some requested that the 160 route extends west past Willingdon Avenue.

#### Recommendations

Based on what we heard during consultation and our evaluation of customer benefits and trade-offs, we recommend the following actions for consideration through service plan development:

- Implement proposal to maintain frequent service and connections to Evergreen Extension, with modification to extend 160 routing to Kootenay Loop.
- Implement modified change to route 160 to provide continuous east-west local service along Hastings Street in Burnaby from Cliff Avenue to Boundary Road.
   Subject to infrastructure review, this would move the western terminus of the 160 to Kootenay Loop, rather the previously proposed Brentwood Station.
- Maintain the 160 and C24 local bus service along the current 97 B-Line route for local travel and connections to SkyTrain.
- Monitor ridership on routes C24 and 160, adjusting service as demand warrants and funding allows.
- Coordinate changes with Evergreen Extension bus integration.

#### DID YOU KNOW

The Evergreen Extension will reduce travel time, between Lougheed Town Centre Station and Lafarge Lake – Douglas Station, to approximately 15 minutes versus 30 minutes currently on the 97 B-Line.



## **ACHIEVING TRANSPARENCY:**

### **ENGAGE AND INFORM**

## **ENGAGE WITH KEY AUDIENCES**

### Customers





- In-person events for groups or organizations
- Responses to letters, emails, phone calls

### Employees

 Sessions to teach rail and bus service changes and clarify questions





- Ongoing updates and discussions with municipal staff
- Present to Committees and City Councils





## **SHARE INFORMATION**

### Customers



• 156 FAQs

**Stakeholders** 

- 95+ social media posts
- 3 advertising campaigns
- 50+ system ambassadors
- Monitor customer feedback



- Municipal partners shared our information
- Prepare information packages for elected officials
- Submit articles to industry magazines

### Employees

- 2 Town Halls
- Multiple Coffee Chats
- Develop/execute tactics aligned across the enterprise
- Evergreen section on the intranet
- Info at depots and offices

### Media

10+ news releases



- 145+ news articles
- Mitigate issues
- Ride-alongs with senior govt
- Host a technical briefing
- Media tour of the plazas/stations



## **STAGED ROLL OUT**

### Phase 1

SkyTrain Operating Pattern/ Alignment Campaign

- Educational
  awareness
  campaign to teach
  and inform
  customers on the
  new travel patterns
- Campaign: September 19 to October 28, 2016
- Alignment change: October 22, 2016

### Phase 2

Evergreen Extension/ Awareness Campaign

- Generate excitement and build ridership for the Evergreen Extension
- Celebrate Evergreen and the expansion of our network
- Campaign: October 31 to December 16, 2016
- Opening day: Dec 2

### Phase 3

Bus & West Coast Express Integration Campaign

- Roll out as part of Winter Service Changes 2016
- Campaign: December 5 to January 13, 2017
- Effective change: December 19



### **Getting ready for Evergreen**

n-Chinatowe

VCC-Clark

Olympic Villa

Broadway-City Ha King Edward

SkyTrain routes to change Oct. 22

Changes to accommodate Evergreen Extension

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NEWS



Town Cent

Rupert

TRANSCRIT | TRACEPULATE



TRANS LINK

Learn more

Compass

2016 Commemorative Edition

### Changes coming to SkyTrain

o get you ready for the Evergreen extension to the Millennium Line, there will be a change to how you ride the SkyTrain network.

Millennium Line Evergreen Extra

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TRANS

### SkyTrain and B-Line Network Changes









Get ready for changes to the SkyTrain

Know bef translink.

network starting October 22!

Evergreen means G

TRANS LINK

9

17

00 50872 Boundary Downtown Coquitlam Station

translink.ca

### **1-YEAR LATER**

Weekday ridership up **25%** 

Weekend ridership up more than 50%

**8.6 million** boardings between opening day and Oct. 31, 2017

51% of journeys in Tri-Cities begin on Evergreen



## **LESSONS LEARNED**

- Find a balance between technical and plain language
- Understand what is meaningful to residents
- Share the right message on the right channel
- Some customers need the details
- Show how decisions are made
- Strong relationship between Communications and Planning



Evergreen means GO

 The Evergreen Extension is now open, connecting more people to places they want to go.

Learn more at translink.ca

TRANS LINK

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