
BACKGROUND

2009TRAN0018-000260
Feb. 28, 2009

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
TransLink

PROJECT OFFICE OPENING LAUNCHES EVERGREEN LINE

- The Evergreen Line is a key component of the Provincial Transit Plan, which is designed to:
 - double transit ridership across the province to more than 400 million trips per year by 2020.
 - attract to transit a market share of 17 per cent in Metro Vancouver by 2020, laying the foundation to attract 22 per cent by 2030.
 - reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air contaminants from cars by 4.7 million tonnes cumulatively by 2020.
 - support increased population and employment densities near transit hubs and along transit corridors.
- Federal funding comes from the Building Canada Plan. Announced in Budget 2007, the seven-year, \$33-billion plan consists of a suite of programs to meet the varying needs of infrastructure projects across Canada:
 - The Gas Tax Fund and an increased rebate in the GST paid by municipalities, which provide predictable, long-term funding for municipalities.
 - The Provincial/Territorial Base Funding initiative, which provides \$25 million per year for each province and territory.
 - The Building Canada Fund, which supports infrastructure projects across Canada, both large and small.
 - The Gateways and Border Crossings Fund and the Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative to strengthen trade-related infrastructure.
 - The Public-Private Partnerships (P3) Fund, the first national infrastructure program in Canada dedicated toward public-private partnerships.
- People using the Evergreen Line will be able to travel from Coquitlam Town Centre to downtown Vancouver in about 40 minutes. Compared with a rush hour driving time of 70 to 85 minutes, this will save at least an hour per day based on a two-way trip.
- The Evergreen Line is expected to result in numerous benefits to people in the Lower Mainland, including:
 - more transit options with faster, more frequent, and more efficient service, especially for commuters in the northeast quadrant
 - more economic opportunities for businesses near the Evergreen Line
 - provide a significant boost to the Lower Mainland and B.C. economies, both during construction, and long-term
 - enables faster travel time (13 minutes from Coquitlam Town Centre to Lougheed Town Centre)
 - more frequent schedules (every three minutes)

- fully integrated with the existing rapid transit system, connecting directly with the Millennium Line
 - potentially remove up to 60,000 cars a day from area roadways and 60,000 tonnes of GHGs per year by 2020.
- The Evergreen Line will be 11 kilometres, running on a northwest route from Lougheed Station in Burnaby, elevated on North Road to Burquitlam, and then tunnelled to Port Moody where it runs at-grade parallel to the Canadian Pacific Rail right-of-way to Coquitlam West Coast Express Station, then elevated on Pinetree terminating near Douglas College in Coquitlam.
 - The Evergreen Line will include six primary stations on opening day, including:
 - Lougheed Town Centre.
 - Burquitlam.
 - Port Moody West Coast Express.
 - Ioco (near Barnet Highway and Ioco Road intersection).
 - Coquitlam West Coast Express.
 - Douglas College/Coquitlam City Hall.
 - Two additional station locations will be considered, working in consultation with local communities, based on their ability to shape land use and promote increased density and ridership.
 - Preliminary assessment indicates the Evergreen Line is a candidate for a public private partnership (P3). A detailed assessment of procurement options, including traditional and P3 delivery, is underway to determine which model will provide the best value for taxpayers.
 - The Evergreen Line Project Office will advance the project through design and construction, providing information to the public and ensuring extensive consultation with communities and stakeholders.

Media contact: Dave Crebo
Public Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Transportation and
Infrastructure
250 387-7787

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the Province's website at www.gov.bc.ca.