
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2016TRAN0256-001633
Sept. 8, 2016

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

More parking and pre-Christmas opening for Evergreen Line Project

COQUITLAM – The Province is investing \$5 million to build 150 new parking spaces for the Evergreen Line Project, which will now open before Christmas, Port Moody-Coquitlam MLA Linda Reimer announced today on behalf of Todd Stone, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure.

The Province has worked closely with the City of Coquitlam to develop a plan and location for 150 additional parking spaces, to be built at the Lafarge Lake-Douglas Station, where the Evergreen Line ends.

“The Government of Canada recognizes how important efficient transit infrastructure is to supporting the middle class and allowing Canadians to get to work on time and back home at the end of a long day,” said Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, Amarjeet Sohi. “This vital public transportation improvement project will make City of Coquitlam a more inclusive and sustainable city. It is thanks to projects like the one being celebrated today that Canadian communities will remain among the best places in the world to live, work and raise a family.”

“The Evergreen Line Project is over 90% complete and as we get closer to opening day, we want to make it as easy as possible for people to get out of their cars and use public transit like the Evergreen extension,” said Stone. “This extra parking project will be the final construction milestone to be reached and I’d like to thank the thousands of people involved in the construction of the Evergreen Line Project for their hard work as they move this vital transportation project closer to completion.”

Finishing work continues at all Evergreen Line stations and the construction of the station plazas are nearing completion. The exact date for welcoming the public to the Evergreen Line will be determined in the coming months.

“The opening of the Evergreen Line will provide British Columbians with yet another more efficient and sustainable travel option in the Metro Vancouver region on what will be the longest fully-automated rapid transit system in the world,” said Minister of Community Sport and Cultural Development Peter Fassbender. “This milestone achievement is to be celebrated not only for the transportation needs it meets but also for providing the necessary support to enable the growth of affordable, interconnected and sustainable communities in the region.”

The 150 new spaces available for transit users at the Lafarge Lake-Douglas Station are fully funded within the project’s \$1.43 billion budget and are on top of the 500 parking spaces outlined in the project’s scope. The ability to invest \$5 million into additional parking demonstrates strong fiscal management of the Evergreen Line Project. These 500 spaces include 85 new parking stalls at Moody Centre Station and 415 parking stalls at Coquitlam

Central Station. This brings the total number of new parking spaces that will serve Evergreen to 650.

“The Evergreen Line will make life more convenient for thousands of residents in the Tri-Cities area, and it is a project I have been personally invested in for years,” said Linda Reimer, MLA for Port Moody-Coquitlam. “I am so proud that it is now on the verge of completion and I look forward to seeing it up and running before Christmas.”

The City of Coquitlam will build and manage the parking expansion. Site preparation has started with construction work starting in the next few weeks. The new lot is expected to be open to commuters by the end of the year.

“The impending arrival of the Evergreen Line is another positive step in providing more commuting options to Coquitlam’s residents, visitors, and businesses,” said Mayor Richard Stewart. “And these additional parking spots will especially help those commuters who also have to drop off children or complete other errands before or after their daily commute. We look forward to continuing to work with TransLink to ensure transit services are expanded and integrated into our growing community in a way that maximizes transportation choices for all.”

Once the province finishes construction, TransLink will assume responsibility for operations to ensure that people can travel by public transit where they need to go. TransLink will also adjust their bus service schedules to better serve and connect people to the Evergreen Extension after opening day. To inform these changes, TransLink went through a comprehensive consultation process on proposed bus routes across the region; approximately a third of these routes were in the Northeast sector aimed at better integration with the Evergreen extension. TransLink will provide customers with details on service changes well in advance of implementation to ensure a seamless transition.

“The opening of the Evergreen Extension will be a major milestone in TransLink’s history and we are getting ready behind the scenes to help ensure a seamless transition for our customers,” says Kevin Desmond, TransLink CEO. “Residents in Coquitlam and Port Moody are now much closer to having a direct rapid transit route to Vancouver.”

Major construction work on the \$1.43 billion Evergreen Line Project began in February 2013 with the expectation of being operational in summer 2016. The tunnel boring was the most complex phase of the project and in 2015, some challenges associated with this work had set the project behind schedule, adjusting the project completion to early 2017. The project team, contractor and hundreds of construction workers have worked around the clock to have the new line up and running as early as possible – now scheduled to open before Christmas.

The Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia and TransLink are proud partners in the \$1.43 billion Evergreen Line Project. The 11 kilometre line will link Burnaby, Port Moody and Coquitlam to Vancouver and will be fully integrated into the existing SkyTrain system at Lougheed Town Centre Station.

Learn More:

The Evergreen Line Project: www.evergreenline.gov.bc.ca

Information in other languages is available at: www.evergreenline.gov.bc.ca/languages.htm

Twitter: @TranBC #EvergreenlineBC

Facebook: www.facebook.com/evergreenline

For photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tranbc/sets/72157632226282626>

A backgrounder follows.

Media Contact:

Government Communications and Public
Engagement
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
250 356-8241

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect

BACKGROUND

For Immediate Release
2016TRAN0256-001633
Sept. 8, 2016

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Evergreen Line Project

The Evergreen Line Project is an 11-kilometre extension to the existing SkyTrain system in Metro Vancouver. It will be a fast, frequent and convenient SkyTrain service, connecting Coquitlam City Centre through Port Moody to Lougheed Town Centre in approximately 15 minutes. When the line opens, Metro Vancouver's SkyTrain system will become the longest fully-automated rapid transit system in the world.

Evergreen will link Burnaby, Port Moody and Coquitlam to Vancouver and will be fully integrated into the existing SkyTrain system at Lougheed Town Centre Station. It will carry 70,000 passengers per day by 2021.

Funding for the Evergreen Line Project is a partnership between the Government of Canada, the Government of B.C. and TransLink. The project cost is \$1.43 billion, with the Government of Canada contributing up to \$424 million (\$350 million from the Building Canada Fund, \$67 million from the Public Transit Capital Trust Fund, and \$7 million from the P3 Canada Fund), the Government of B.C. contributing \$586 million, and other partners contributing \$21 million. TransLink is contributing the remaining \$400 million and will operate the system when it opens in late 2016.

Construction milestones:

The Evergreen Line Project is over 90% complete.

The elevated and at-grade guideways are complete, and track work is complete on the guideways. Station buildings are complete and construction of the station plazas is set to finish this fall.

Initial train testing and commissioning is complete for all sections of the Evergreen Line except in the tunnel. Once testing in the tunnel is complete, "trial running" will begin along the entire alignment. Trial running is the final stage of testing and commissioning, and will simulate operations along the new line.

Learn More:

For more information about the Evergreen Line Project, please visit:

<http://www.evergreenline.gov.bc.ca/>

Media Contact:

Government Communications and Public
Engagement
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
250 356-8241

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect