



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TransLink Provides Council with Update on B-Line Development and Area Transport Plan

Maple Ridge, BC: On Tuesday, November 22, Sarah Ross, Director of System Planning, Transportation Planning & Policy provided Council with an update on the work that is underway to deliver the new B-Line service from downtown Maple Ridge to the Coquitlam Evergreen Line.

Ms. Ross explained that the detailed planning work is underway to deliver the new B-Line rapid bus service by the fall of 2019. The work is underway to determine the best place to create stops to ensure that the rapid bus service will provide riders with a reliable, frequent and direct service between downtown Maple Ridge and the Evergreen SkyTrain Line in Coquitlam. The projected level of service is to have the route leave the downtown Maple Ridge bus loop every 15 minutes for 18 hours a day and ultimately utilize a variety of methods such as dedicated lanes and queue jumping systems to allow the fastest possible service to Coquitlam. TransLink is also exploring how they can use technology to make the bus loading and unloading as efficient as possible. A full public consultation process will be conducted to gather feedback from the community.

Council took the opportunity to ask questions about the route that the B-Line will take and what kind of infrastructure will be needed to support the service, for example a 'park and ride' facility at the downtown transit loop on Edge Street. Ms. Ross indicated that she would explore these suggestions further in consultation with City staff and that she would be back before Council when the route planning was completed to share more detailed information.

Ms. Ross explained that this project is part of the \$2 billion plan to improve transit service in the region. In September of 2017 new bus routes opened in the Silver Valley neighbourhoods of Maple Ridge and she reported that the ridership has been very solid.

The presentation also included an update on the Area Transport Plan currently being undertaken by TransLink. The Area Transport Plan will be reviewing changes to transit service locations, frequency and span, better pedestrian and regional cycling connections to transit and considerations of goods movement and coordination with other regional agencies and will include a public consultation process to receive input from the community.

Ms. Ross also spoke about a public engagement process that is underway to gather public input on 'mobility pricing.' A website called itstimemv.ca/ has been set up to provide citizens with background information on mobility pricing and gather public input on the concept. The mobility pricing website is also supported by social media channels and those links have been shared on the City of Maple Ridge Facebook page to encourage local participation.

For more information on this release, please contact David Pollock, Municipal Engineer by phone at 604-467-7496 or by email at dpollock@mapleridge.ca.