

BACKGROUND

SKYTRAIN UPGRADE PROJECT

Upgrades to the existing SkyTrain network are necessary to meet current and future demand, and are a pre-condition for new rapid transit projects

WHAT IS THE SKYTRAIN UPGRADE PROJECT?

The 2014 Vision for Metro Vancouver Transit and Transportation included analysis and recommendations on the type of investments needed to keep the existing SkyTrain system modern and up to the task of meeting growing demand over the next 30 years. The upgrade project includes:

- 100 new Mark III SkyTrain cars (28 already funded in Phase One Plan; 72 cars remaining);
- New storage and maintenance facilities for the new cars
- Control and power system upgrades to ensure new cars can be operated
- Station upgrades to improve passenger amenities and access

WHY IS THIS UPGRADE PROJECT NEEDED NOW?

- Current and future ridership will strain the existing system
The Expo Line officially launched in 1986 and the Millennium Line opened in 2002. Since then the population and level of employment in the region has grown, and the current capacity of the system is insufficient to meet the demands during period periods. This is resulting in passengers being passed up and crowding on platforms at the busiest stations during peak periods.

The recent opening of the Evergreen Extension has resulted in higher ridership and crowding on the system more quickly than anticipated. This is expected to worsen with more people coming to the region, more development near stations, and planned bus expansion in the 10-Year Vision connecting to the SkyTrain system.

- Previous improvements and investments in the Phase One Plan only meets today's needs
TransLink procured 28 Mark III SkyTrain cars to meet the ridership demand from the Evergreen Extension, and the Phase One Plan of the 10-Year Vision includes 28 additional Mark III cars. These additional vehicles will be delivered by the end of 2018, however this initial increase in capacity will only meet today's ridership demand. Additional cars are needed to meet future demand.

TransLink has completed a number of station upgrades and is in the process of constructing additional station upgrades along the Expo Line¹. The Phase One Plan also includes station upgrades to Burrard and Joyce-Collingwood Stations² to improve access, improvements to the Operations and Maintenance Centre and upgrades to control and communication systems to accommodate the new cars. Additional upgrades to more stations and systems are needed to accommodate future vehicles and riders.

HOW WILL THIS PROJECT BENEFIT COMMUTERS?

The additional SkyTrain cars and system upgrades in this project will provide benefits to the entire region by modernizing both the Expo and Millennium Lines to:

- Reduce crowding on cars, decrease pass-ups, and provide more room on platforms, especially during peak periods
- Shorten waiting times with increased frequency of trains
- Provide capacity to serve additional ridership from current planned service expansion in Phase One and future system expansion, including the Millennium Line Broadway Extension and South of Fraser Rapid Transit projects
- Reduce the risk of service disruptions and reductions resulting from lack of spare vehicles
- Decrease road congestion and emissions by making transit a desirable option for travel

COST AND FUNDING SUPPORT NEEDED

The first stage of this upgrade project was funded as part of Phase One of the 10-Year Vision, with \$242 million in capital contributions from federal, provincial, and regional governments, including a 33% share from the province. An estimated \$900 million in capital investments remains for Phase Two. The Mayors' Council is calling on the next provincial government to provide a 40% cost share – about \$360 million – to this critical upgrade project.

¹ [Upgrades](#) to Metrotown, Commercial-Broadway, New Westminster, Joyce-Collingwood, Surrey Central, Main Street-Science World, and Scott Road Stations

² Phase One Plan improvements to Joyce-Collingwood Station are in addition to previous improvements to this station already under construction before Plan approval in November 2016