

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JANUARY 29, 2010

## **EXPANDED TRANSIT SERVICE IN MISSION BEGINS FEBRUARY 1; IMPROVED CONNECTIONS TO WEST COAST EXPRESS**

**MISSION, B.C.** – The Government of British Columbia, BC Transit, the District of Mission and the City of Abbotsford are pleased to announce expanded service for Central Fraser Valley's transit system. An additional 1,500 service hours will go toward improving transit routes in Mission.

“More service hours mean it will be easier for people in Mission to leave their cars at home and take the bus,” said Abbotsford-Mission MLA Randy Hawes. “The Province and its partners are helping people in communities throughout British Columbia take advantage of expanded and improved transit services.”

“We’re working hard to double transit ridership throughout the province,” said Maple Ridge-Mission MLA Marc Dalton. “More service hours will help provide the transit opportunities the people of Mission need now and in the future.”

“Linking public transit services are key elements of community growth and economic development, along with providing environmentally responsible transportation alternatives, said James Atebe, Mayor of Mission. “If we want the public to use these systems, we must continue to work on expanding them over time, and ensure that these services make sense and meet the real needs of our citizens. ”

Commuters transferring to the West Coast Express now have earlier options to catch the third West Coast Express train, departing at 6:27 a.m. There are three new trips leaving downtown: **#32 West Heights** (5:58 a.m.), **#33 Cedar Valley** (5:55 a.m.), and **#34 East Side** (5:55 a.m.). All other West Coast Express connection times have also improved to meet the TrainBus schedule.

Commuters starting shifts at 8:00 a.m. can now take the 7:25 a.m. **#35 Hatzic** from Downtown, arriving at 7:46 a.m. One additional trip has also been added to **#39 Shopper Shuttle** at 6:05 p.m every weekday.

Affecting all routes, a separate Saturday schedule has been created to better reflect customer travel patterns and transit demand. Originally, the same schedule ran Monday through Saturday.

"This expanded service will support the growing demands of our customers in Mission and allows BC Transit to improve the way we link communities, businesses and support lifestyles," said BC Transit President and CEO Manuel Achadinha.

To learn more about the expanded service, visit [www.bctransit.com](http://www.bctransit.com), call (604) 854-3232 in Abbotsford and Mission, or pick up the latest Rider's Guide.

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