



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **TRANSIT SERVICE INTRODUCED TO WILLOUGHBY**

Bus service is coming to Willoughby.

TransLink is creating a new bus route along 208 Street that will connect residents from the Carvolth Exchange Park and Ride to Langley Centre.

Implementation of the new service was announced as part of TransLink's 2015 Transit Network Review, which was released March 30. TransLink is currently working to confirm when the new route will be implemented.

"We are thrilled to see a bus route being added to the 208 Street corridor," said Township of Langley Mayor Jack Froese. "Willoughby is the fastest growing area of our community and this is a much-needed service that we have been working towards for some time."

"With so many people choosing to make this their home, there is a huge need to give Willoughby residents reliable transit service that will get them to work, school, and allow them go about their daily lives safely and efficiently."

TransLink regularly surveys the public to identify where tweaks may be required to enhance transit service, and last fall, the transportation authority held its largest consultation ever. The public was asked for feedback on 85 service changes proposed across Metro Vancouver and TransLink received 12,000 survey responses.

Of those who participated, 81 per cent supported expanding transit service to 208 Street, noting it will give them direct access to transit, rather than having to drive to the Carvolth Exchange.

Through the service update, the 595 bus will be rerouted to 208 Street instead of 200 Street, where there is low ridership. As the 501 bus will continue to accommodate customers who travel along 200 Street, more customers overall can be served.

"We heard Langley residents loud and clear," said Tim Savoie, TransLink's VP of Transportation Planning and Policy. "We're glad to be able to introduce new transit service in this area to meet the needs of this rapidly growing community."

"Using transit reduces congestion and is a much greener way to travel; it is a service that needs to be greatly enhanced and expanded for residents now and for those who will be living here in the future," said Froese.

As a member of the Metro Vancouver Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation, which was unable to secure necessary public support for its proposed Transportation Vision in a 2015 plebiscite, Froese knows that many people want and need more transit solutions and are frustrated by the lack of options.

"Langley Township is a large, growing municipality and we will continue to work with TransLink to create and improve transit service in our community," he said, "but the addition of bus service along 208 Street is a step in the right direction."

"We really appreciate the members of our community who took the time to fill out the survey and express their opinions to TransLink," Froese said. "I'm sure a lot of people will be using the new 595 bus service when it is introduced in Willoughby."

TransLink will also be making adjustments to the Brookwood – Langley Centre and Walnut Grove – Lougheed routes, as determined through the Transit Network Review.