



**SOUTH COAST BRITISH COLUMBIA  
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
POLICE SERVICE**

# **PHOTOGRAPHY ON TRANSIT PROPERTY**

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Office of Primary Responsibility: Inspector Operations

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## **POLICY**

### **Definitions**

Nil

### **Authority**

Nil

### **General**

1. The South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority (TransLink) does not have a written policy regarding photography on the transit property. TransLink does not prohibit photography on transit property. It is common for visitors, students and the media to take pictures of transit. ProTransBC and British Columbia Rapid Transit Company (BCRTC) also do not have policy prohibiting photography. Notwithstanding the absence of such policy, transit personnel are trained to report all suspicious photographic activity to the respective transit operations control center, who then calls for the attendance of the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Police Service (SCBCTAPS), as appropriate.
2. SCBCTAPS Police Officers (Members) will follow procedures in Policy Chapter OM010 – Media Relations regarding filming by media and/or citizens at a crime scene or in public places. For authorities to seize camera equipment or images, Members will refer to Policy Chapter OD300 – Seizure of Camera Equipment and/or Images at Crime Scenes.

## **PROCEDURES**

3. The public may take photos/film from public access areas on the transit system but are not permitted into restricted areas. The photographer must be in compliance with the Transit Conduct and Safety Regulation and is required to obey posted signs and rules, as amended from time to time.
4. When a person is taking photographs of the transit system for a commercial purpose, TransLink corporation communications department requires the person to obtain permission from them.

5. Generally, media and film students are asked to follow the practice of contacting TransLink corporate communications and advise that they will be on property/using transit system to take images. A TransLink communications officer notifies the respective transit operations control centre so they are informed of the photography/filming being done (to distinguish from suspicious photography), and the communications officer usually attends with the photographer.
6. TransLink corporate communications department has adopted a safety practice that tripods are not allowed on the platform (this would fall under Transit Rule #4 – No baggage or objects permitted which may obstruct or interfere with others or damage to property). Nor are the photographers allowed to impede the movement of transit riders. Non usage of tripods is a safety instruction which any photographer could be asked to follow by transit personnel (including SCBCTAPS Members), pursuant to the Transit Rules.
7. When dealing with a photographer on transit property, Members will be cognizant that the transit system is for the use and benefit of all transit passengers and legitimate activity, and that Members are there to ensure the safety and security of transit passengers, enforce the transit rules and prevent crime.
8. If a photographer is contravening the Transit Rules, Members will have to consider whether to apply provisions under the Transit Conduct and Safety Regulation, including asking them to leave the property if they do not cease contravening the Regulation.
9. When Members are engaged in an interaction in which they believe there is an ulterior motive by the photographer, or is suspicious in nature, the Member will request a copy of the digital video recording for the relevant period and generate a PRIME file.
10. All incidents of suspicious photography will be investigated by Members and reported on the PRIME file. This also enables INSET to be advised, as appropriate.

**[ See also Policy Chapter OD300 – Seizure of Camera Equipment and/or Images at Crime Scenes.]**

#### **Key References**

Greater Vancouver Transit Conduct and Safety Regulation [BC Reg 87/99]