



## METRO VANCOUVER TRANSIT POLICE REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2021 TRANSLINK BOARD MEETING

### TransLink Strategic Priority: Customer First

- **Transit Police - Criminal Intelligence Unit (“CIU”)**

Transit Police has an Offender Management Program. This program’s aim is to improve the safety, security and confidence of the travelling public and transit staff by reducing crime and criminal reoffending. The key focus is to monitor offenders on probation, bail or parole and make them more accountable through compliance checks and enforcement, and provide them awareness of other available community resources.

The CIU will check police databases and determine the top five offenders for the past three months. These offenders will then be assigned to a patrol squad or specialized unit (such as our General Investigation Unit) who will be responsible for follow up on any conditions or curfews in the hopes to deter any reoffending-type behavior. The assigned team will also liaise with Parole or Probation Officers and will attempt to refer the offender to community-based supports if applicable. A summary of the investigative steps will be maintained until the offender no longer needs to be in the program.

- **Transit Police - Crime Suppression Team (“CST”)**

The CST has been fully operational since April 2021 and is composed of one Sergeant and five constables. CST is able to quickly and effectively respond to incidents in real-time or focus on project-based investigations, most of which are conducted with our Jurisdictional Police



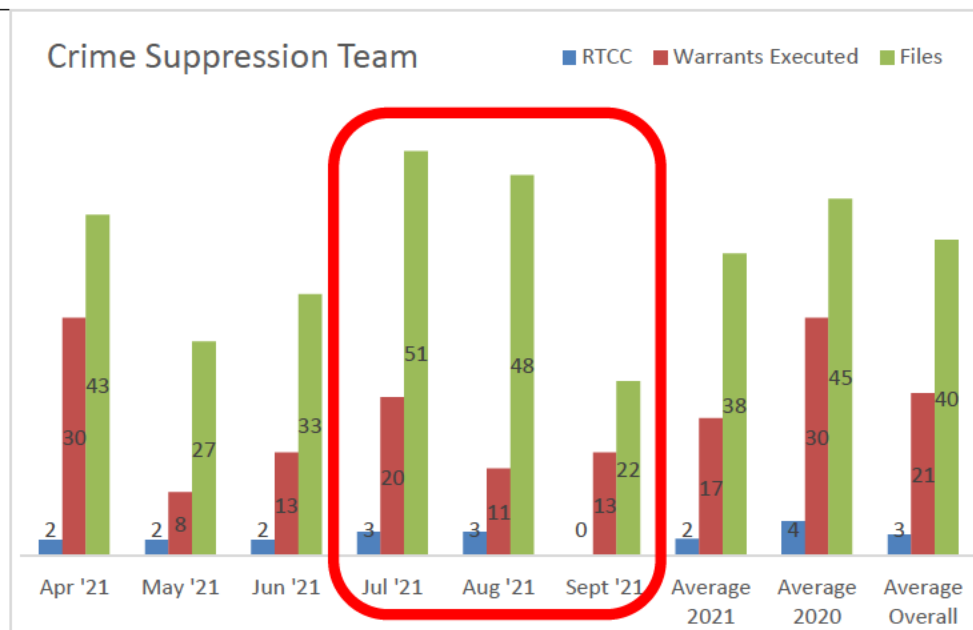
**Cst. Darren Chua @CstDChua · 4d**  
A 3 week hiatus didn't stop the momentum of the @TransitPolice Crime Suppression Team. We spent the week seizing weapons, and arresting 10 individuals wanted on varying charges from armed robbery, drug trafficking, to assault causing bodily harm to name a few



Department partners when crime trends or hot spots are identified in or near the transit system. CST maintains contact with a number of other agencies such as the “End Gang Life” initiative run by the BC Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit and the Canadian Police Youth Network, which is a monthly meeting that brings law enforcement personnel from across Canada together to discuss best practices in programs, tactics and trends related to youth, many of whom are at-risk.

Highlights from the last quarter include joint curfew checks of 16 at-risk youth with VPD Yankee 10 and

Surrey RCMP Yankee 30. Two subjects who are known offenders on the transit system are being monitored on a regular basis by CST and the General Investigations Unit. These males were identified through the Criminal Intelligence Unit at being likely to reoffend. The CST worked with the Surrey RCMP on a “one-day” blitz in a problem area, including a bus stop where prolific offenders were making the area uncomfortable for transit users and lastly, the team worked with the Richmond RCMP to focus on thefts and related offences at the Richmond Centre and along the Canada Line.



- **Public Engagement**

The Transit Police conducted high visibility patrols and ramped up its community engagement in September to promote transit safety for those returning to school. Transit Police Officers and partners (e.g., Transit Security and Waterfront Community Police Centre volunteers) were part of safety days on campus, held pop-ups at stations,



gave presentations to students and



groups (e.g., Girl Guides), and attended community events (Pakistani and Taiwanese communities). Patrol Officers and special teams supported with HOV and school zone enforcement – keeping students and transit customers safe. Holiday Anti-theft campaign and ICBC High Visibility Reflector campaign will launch in October/November.

In fall 2021, the Transit Police continued its work to strengthen support to Indigenous People:

- Support to those in the Indigenous community suffering from the profound effect of the residential schools and arising intergenerational trauma;
- Transit Police launched the fall program of the Blue Eagle Community Cadet Program for youth ages 12-15 (and is working with Surrey RCMP/partners on launching the same program to Surrey youth in early 2022);
- Transit Police Officers completed e-learning training courses on Trauma Informed Practice and Cultural Awareness and Humility;
- Transit Police staff honored National Indigenous Peoples Day, Orange Shirt Day and new National Truth and Reconciliation Day;

- Transit Police Officers wore new “Every Child Matters” patches;
- A number of consultations were held with Indigenous groups on the new Transit Police strategic plan and other initiatives;
- Approximately 75 staff have now completed e-learning training in the Gender Based Analysis Plus (“GBA+”) tool delivered by the Government of Canada – Status of Women;



- The Transit Police Board completed its Statement on Commitment to Truth and Reconciliation (attached as Appendix “A”); and
- Transit Police’s Indigenous Liaison Officer and Sergeant in charge of the Community Engagement Team collaborate with the TransLink Indigenous Relations Unit on TransLink strategies and initiative underway to support Indigenous Peoples.

#### TransLink Strategic Priority: State of Good Repair

- **Keeping Transit Infrastructure and People Safe**  
Transit Police continues to work closely with Jurisdictional Police Departments on incident response, crime prevention/problem oriented policing, managing crowds / disorder / disruptions from public protests, and responding to serious critical incidents. Standardized police officer training and specialized anti-terrorism training is an important component to police agencies working collaboratively in incident response (including threats of active shooters). Some examples follow.



##### **Possible Active Shooter**

In the afternoon of October 1, 2021, Transit Police’s public service counter received a call from a male claiming that he had planted a number of pipe bombs in Metrotown Station that were set to explode. The caller also made similar threats towards Metrotown Mall, stating that he planned on killing people and police. Over 45 Transit Police Officers were deployed (including patrol, Community Engagement Team and speciality units) to the incident and Metrotown Station was closed and evacuated. It was subsequently searched/cleared by the Transit Police’s Explosive Detection Team. Transit Police advised Burnaby RCMP and both police agencies responded to evacuate the mall. Other police resources were brought in, including the RCMP Lower Mainland Emergency Response Team, to assist with the lockdown and clearing of the mall.





In addition, during this call, Transit Police was notified of a suspicious package call at CMBC operating management center. Transit Police Officers and Dog Teams attended that location to check it, which turned out to be unfounded. In both incidents, the calls were determined to be false and considered 'swatting calls'.<sup>1</sup> While the false nature of these calls was a good outcome for the safety of the public and the transit system, it still was a very concerning and a serious situation for the public and police officers at Metrotown Station/Mall, and considerable police resources were dedicated to the response, which takes away from other policing needs. An investigation into the incidents is underway with national and international law enforcement partners.

### Richmond "Boost & Bust Project"

On August 14, 2021, Transit Police and Richmond RCMP conducted a large 12-hour joint project to target criminals who may use transit to conduct property crimes. Transit Police assigned Supervisors, Patrol Officers and Members of the Crime Suppression Team to the joint project with the RCMP. This project resulted in 12 arrests, including one for theft of a Transit Police bait bike by a male known to police. Of the 12 individuals arrested, four were Richmond residents and eight were from outside Richmond. Five of the offenders entered Richmond via the Canada Line and one via bus. Two offenders were held in custody and five of the arrests led to charges being forwarded to Crown.

### Suspicious Package

At 3:45 pm on August 28, 2021, a report was made to Burnaby RCMP about a suspicious package left unattended on the west side of the Metrotown Station platform. The Station and bus loop were cleared and closed to the public. Transit Police deployed its Explosive Detection Dog Teams, who cleared the package with no indication of any explosive substance. Transit Police also conducted video review. The package was discovered to be an empty rice cooker left on the platform. The Metrotown Station and bus loop resumed services within an hour. The quick availability of the Transit Police dog teams to respond to these events helps reduce delays/stops in transit service and impact to the public.

<sup>1</sup> Swatting refers to making a fake emergency call in order to provoke an emergency response.

- **Performance Measurement Culture**

Transit Police is an intelligence-led and data-driven police agency, and gathers comprehensive statistics in relation to crime and organizational performance. Transit Police shares statistical and performance information with the public, TransLink and stakeholders through a variety of tools. A snapshot of key statistics for 2021 Q1-Q3 as compared to 2020 Q1-Q3 follows.

As a result of the continued pandemic, the number of transit Boarded Passengers was -9% lower than the same period in 2020 (155,645,801 in 2021 Q1-Q3; 171,909,417 in 2020 Q1-Q3). However, when comparing the number of total Transit Police files in same periods in 2021 and 2020, there was only a -4% decrease (15,451 in 2021 Q1-Q3; 16,088 in 2020 Q1-Q3), which is attributed largely to fewer Violation Ticket files. There was a 17% increase in 'assist' files to other police agencies in 2021 Q1-Q3, as compared to the same period in 2020.

Metro Vancouver Transit Police Crime and Safety Statistics	2021 Q1-Q3	2020 Q1-Q3	% Change
Crimes Against Persons/100,000 Boarded Passengers (primary and assists)	.660	.653	1%
Crimes Against Property/100,000 Boarded Passengers (primary and assists)	.894	.699	28%
Other Criminal Code Violations/100,000 Boarded Passengers <sup>2</sup> (primary and assists)	.400	.406	-1%
Provincial Violation Tickets ("VTs")	3609	4883	-26%
Arrests - Warrants Executed (All)	872	519	68%
Arrests - New Charges <sup>3</sup>	383	567	-32%
Total S. 28 Mental Health Act Apprehension Files	161	127	27%
Sexual Offences (primary and assists)	92	102	-10%
SCBCTA Fare Infraction Notices	3,379	4,791	-29%

Notwithstanding the drastic impact of the pandemic on ridership level, criminal activity continued on or near the transit system, as shown in the high 2021 Q1-Q3 rate of Crimes Against Persons per 100,000 Boarded Passengers and Crimes Against Property per 100,000 Boarded Passengers. The 2021 Q1-Q3 Crimes Against Persons rate remained level with the same period in 2020; however, in September 2021, the rate was only 0.45 which brings it back in line with pre-COVID-19 levels. The actual number of Crimes Against Persons was 1,027 in 2021 Q1-Q3 as compared to 1,122 in 2020 Q1-Q3, a 8% decrease.

There was a 28% increase in the Crimes Against Property rate for the comparative 2020 to 2021 periods. The rate for Crimes Against Property in September 2021 dropped considerably – to 0.62, which is moving it back down to pre-COVID-19 rate range. The actual number of

<sup>2</sup> Other Criminal Code Violations: Includes such offences as weapons, disturbing the peace, child pornography, obstruct peace officer, possess break and enter instruments, intimidation and threats, breach/bail violations, indecent acts/exposing, and counterfeiting.

<sup>3</sup> Arrest means an actual arrest and all other cases where charges were recommended to Crown Counsel.

Crimes Against Property in 2021 Q1-Q3 was 1,391, as compared to 1,201 for 2020 Q1-Q3; this is a 16% increase. These two YTD crime rates are significant and an anomaly to historical trending prior to 2020.

The number of sexual offence files (primary and assists) for 2021 Q1-Q3 was 10% lower than for the same period in 2020. The monthly averages for sexual offences in 2020 and 2021 are the lowest since 2012. In part, the low numbers may be attributed to the lower ridership during the pandemic and greater visibility for a person if they were to attempt to commit a sexual offence. However, Transit Police continues to be concerned with possible under-reporting of incidents and promotes reporting through a variety of initiatives, including texting 87 77 77. A transit safety tip campaign and presentations occurred in September for post-secondary students returning to school. As well, Transit Police recently conducted training for SkyTrain Station Attendants on sexual offending on transit and the role that they can play in identifying and reporting incidents. Similar training is planned this fall for the Canada Line Attendants.

### **Criminal Warrant Arrests**

Reducing crime and disorder on transit and the surrounding community is a Strategic Objective of the Transit Police Strategic Plan. In 2021 Q1-Q3, Transit Police Officers made 872 arrests for outstanding criminal warrants, which included RCMP, Municipal Police and Transit Police issued warrants from BC and elsewhere. The number of warrant arrests for the 2021 Q1-Q3 was 68% higher than for the same period in 2020. This increase is partly reflective of the targeted work being done by two Transit Police specialty units – the Crime Suppression Team and the Targeted Mobile Enforcement Team. The number of new charge arrests by Transit Police dropped by 32% for the comparative periods.

Many warrant arrests arise from on-view work of Transit Police Officers in their Community Service Areas (assigned patrol area), calls for service, confirming identity incidental to criminal arrest or during enforcement of a provincial statute offence (such as misuse of a fare gates).



However, Transit Police Officers also familiarize themselves with offenders and criminals of concern or offenders wanted through law enforcement intelligence sharing, regional BOLFs (Be on the Look Out For), and the Transit Police Offender Management Program.

On October 22, 2021, Transit Police media officers – Constable Mike Yake and Sergeant Clint Hampton took TransLink CEO Kevin Quinn on a ride-along to help orient him to the type of work that Transit Police Officers do. Proactive/on-view police work was demonstrated, with some examples below.

### **Weapons Possession (Imitation Firearm)**

At Braid SkyTrain Station, Transit Police observed a male coming down the escalators from the SkyTrain platform, who was unable to exit the fare paid zone, as he did not possess a valid fare. The Officer detained the male for the purpose of issuing him a Fare Infraction Notice. The male's identity was confirmed. However, while the Officers were interacting with him, he appeared nervous and kept putting his hand in and out of his pockets. The male's actions made the Officers' uneasy and a search for weapons was conducted. The

search revealed a 'replica style' airsoft gun, which was willingly relinquished to the Officers. The male was allowed to proceed and the airsoft gun placed into exhibits for destruction.

#### **Drug, Warrant and Bear Spray**

Early evening at the Surrey Central SkyTrain Station, Transit Police observed a female sitting out front of the station entrance and observed, in plain view, that the female had a piece of tinfoil in her hand, with a rock of heroin placed on top of it. She was informed that she was under arrest for Possession of a Controlled Substance. The Officers also noted that she had a can of bear spray sitting beside her; however, she stated it was not hers. Her identity was confirmed and police record queries revealed outstanding warrants from Surrey RCMP and Vancouver Police. She was arrested; however, as the female was advanced in her pregnancy, she was transported to Surrey Memorial Hospital for assessment by a physician, prior to Officers lodging her in police cells.

#### **Drug and Warrant Arrest**

Transit Police observed a male huddled in a parking lot next to Surrey Central SkyTrain Station in the early evening. As Officers approached the male stood up, which caused a canister containing suspected heroin to drop from his jacket pocket. The male was arrested for possession of a controlled substance. Police records checks revealed an outstanding endorsed warrant from Surrey RCMP for Mischief. The male was release on an Appearance Notice with a court date for November 2021.

#### **Misuse of Fare Gates and Provincial Violation Tickets ("VTs")**

Issuance of Violation Tickets ("VTs") is associated to Transit Police Officers' active observations and enforcement of the provincial offences, including the misuse of fare gates, which was new legislation in 2017. In comparing 2021 Q1-Q3 to 2020 Q1-Q3, there was a 26% decrease in the number of VTs. This decrease is reflective of the lower ridership and it may be partly attributed to an adjustment to Transit Police operational deployment models and policing practices during the pandemic. Further, some patrol resources were redirected to the Crime Suppression Team.

Of critical importance to the safety of transit customers/staff and public, is how the process of confirming an offender's identity allows Transit Police to learn whether there is a criminal record or conditions of release, and if there are any outstanding warrants to be executed. These warrant arrests contribute positively to the work of our Jurisdictional Police partners and their offender management and community safety/crime reduction efforts.





# Metro Vancouver Transit Police Board



## Commitment to Strengthen Support to Indigenous Peoples

The Metro Vancouver Transit Police Board recognizes the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Calls to Action of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The Police Board acknowledges that the history of colonialism in Canada and forced assimilation policies of the *Indian Act* have contributed to the continued overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples within the Canadian criminal justice system. In many Canadian institutions, there exists unconscious bias, systemic racism and discrimination, and this continues to keep First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples marginalized and in fear of police and government.

The Transit Police Service, with the support of the Police Board, is committed to working towards reconciliation, building trust, and promoting better relationships and engagement between Indigenous communities and the police.

The Police Board recognizes the importance of listening and learning about the effects of intergenerational trauma and the recognition of the past, and the need to protect the human rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Police Board acknowledges the past negative experiences of Indigenous Peoples with authority of the government and police. Therefore, to help reduce overrepresentation in the criminal justice system and create change, it is essential that police officers employ respectful, fair and impartial policing practices.

In collaboration with urban and traditional Indigenous community partners, the Police Board will pursue reconciliation opportunities within its decisions and actions to help improve health and safety outcomes for Indigenous Peoples. The Police Board, in collaboration with the Transit Police Service, will continue to support and develop culturally appropriate and legally informed policies, practices, and initiatives. With the guidance of the Indigenous Liaison Unit, the Police Board and Transit Police staff will seek opportunities to engage with Indigenous communities and groups, with the aim of building open and trusting relationships.

