



TRANSIT POLICE

PROMOTION

Effective Date: September 12, 2005

Revised Date: May 28, 2012, October 16, 2018, July 22, 2020; May 27, 2021

Reviewed Date:

Review Frequency: As Required

Office of Primary Responsibility: Deputy Chief Officer Administrative Services

POLICY

Definitions

Acting Sergeant Assignment – An assignment requiring a Member to act in the Sergeant rank on a temporary basis. This includes assignments for a short period of time (i.e. days or weeks) as well as longer term assignments on a “While So Employed” basis.

BCPPS – The British Columbia Provincial Policing Standards issued pursuant to the *Police Act*.

Chief Officer – The Transit Police Chief Officer or delegate.

Inspector/HR Panel – Comprised of the Transit Police Manager Human Resources and Transit Police Inspectors.

Interview Panel – Comprised of one Deputy Chief Officer, one Inspector, Transit Police Manager Human Resources, and/or appropriate designates as selected by the Chief Officer.

Member – A Designated Constable (all ranks), the Chief Officer or a Deputy Chief Officer of the Transit Police.

Metro Vancouver Transit Police (“Transit Police”) – The operating name of the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Police Service.

Police Act – The BC Police Act, RSBC 1996, c. 367, and the regulations thereto, including the Transit Police Operations Regulation, all as amended from time to time.

Police Academy – The entity authorized by the Director - Police Services/Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to administer provincially-approved recruit and advanced training for municipal constables, designated constables and enforcement officers.

Police Board – The South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Police Board.

Selection Committee – Comprised of the Deputy Chief Officer Administrative Services, Deputy Chief Officer Operations, Transit Police Manager Human Resources, and/or designates as selected by the Chief Officer.

Sergeant Eligibility List (“Eligibility List”) – The list for Members who are both “qualified” to act in the Sergeant rank and “eligible” for a promotion to a Sergeant position, when a position becomes available.

Sergeant Qualified List (“Qualified List”) – The list for Members who are “qualified” to act in the Sergeant rank.

While So Employed Assignment (“WSE”) – An assignment requiring a Member to act in a higher rank position on an extended basis, generally six months or more.

Authority

1. The Transit Police promotion process for Members will comply with the provisions of the Collective Agreement, any issued provincial standards or directives concerning promotional requirements for police officers, and the policies, procedures and guidelines established by the Transit Police.

General

2. The Transit Police will establish and maintain a comprehensive promotion process for its Members. The promotional processes will:
 - (1) Promote the candidate who has the greatest likelihood of providing the highest quality of service for the community and the Transit Police;
 - (2) Be designed to be fair, transparent and accountable to both the Members participating and the Transit Police;
 - (3) Be competitive and intended to recognize candidates with superior knowledge, skills and abilities, and consistent performance;
 - a. while considerable care will be taken to provide objective measurement wherever possible, candidates will need to understand that there is an unavoidable element of subjectivity inherent in various stages of the promotional process;
 - (4) Comply with all aspects of human rights legislation; and
 - (5) Where appropriate, utilize the services of external organizations and agencies (such as the Police Academy) to administer or provide one or more elements of the promotion process.
3. Anticipated vacancies and a written description and schedule of the promotion process for such vacancies will be posted for viewing by Members.
4. Where eligibility lists are used, the promotion process will establish criteria for the development of the eligibility lists.
5. The selection process for Sergeant and Staff Sergeant positions at the Transit Police will be as set forth in this policy.

6. The selection process for ranks higher than Staff Sergeant will be determined and administered by the Chief Officer, in consultation with the Police Board as appropriate.

(1) Selection of the Chief Officer is under the authority of the Police Board.

Removal for Cause

7. The Deputy Chief Officer Administrative Services may reject a candidate application for cause, or may remove a candidate from the promotion process at any time, for cause. The Deputy Chief Officer Administrative Services must make the decision to reject or remove the candidate for cause as soon as practicable after the facts supporting rejection or removal for cause come to their attention. The Deputy Chief Officer Administrative Services must communicate this decision, in writing, to the candidate forthwith.
8. If, at any time, the candidate's Supervisor or any other Transit Police senior leader becomes aware of information that may form the basis for cause, this information will be forwarded to the Deputy Chief Officer Administrative Services for consideration.

Unsuccessful Candidate

9. A candidate who is unsuccessful at any stage in the promotion application or competition process is encouraged to solicit feedback from their Supervisor or the Transit Police Human Resources (HR) so that they are better able to assess their suitability for promotion and undertake developmental steps to improve their potential for promotion in subsequent competitions. New competitions require the candidate to submit an updated resume and accompanying documents, following the process set forth in this policy.

Appeal

10. The Transit Police promotion process will provide for the review or appeal, by a candidate, of decisions concerning their eligibility for, or appointment to, promotional vacancies.

Records

11. Unless otherwise determined by the Deputy Chief Officer Administrative Services, HR will retain the materials and records related to the promotion processes and competitions. Such records will be confidentially and securely held in accordance with the Transit Police policies and the law.
12. In accordance with the BCPPS 2.1.1(10), the Inspector Operations Support Services will keep current with the Police Academy successfully completed training by Members which are pre-requisite to rank.

Evaluation

13. The promotion process will be evaluated at least every two years by the Transit Police and revised as necessary.

[See also: [Policy AB130 – Training](#) and [Collective Agreement](#)]

PROCEDURES

ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTING DIVERSITY

14. The promotional process is guided by the principle of supporting and encouraging diversity at all ranks within the Transit Police.

- (1) Transit Police recognizes the value of gender/diversity-based analysis training courses in support of this principle.

PROMOTION SELECTION COMMITTEE

15. Unless otherwise so determined by the Chief Officer, the Sergeant and Staff Sergeant Promotion Selection Committee (“Selection Committee”) will be comprised of the Deputy Chief Officer Administrative Services, Deputy Chief Officer Operations and Transit Police Manager Human Resources (“Manager Human Resources”). The Selection Committee will be responsible for:

- (1) Making decisions on the basis of consensus, and may make any decision it considers reasonable, that is not inconsistent with the process; and
 - (2) Overseeing the administration of the process.

16. In addition to sitting on the Selection Committee, the Manager Human Resources will be responsible for:

- (1) Administering the Sergeant and Staff Sergeant promotion processes and carrying out the directions of the Selection Committee; and
 - (2) Providing candidates with direction as to how to proceed through the process.

SERGEANT SELECTION PROCESS

Sergeant Promotional Process Overview

17. The Sergeant promotional process will normally be held once every calendar year, in September, but may be varied due to operational requirements.
18. Transit Police HR (with input from the Operations Division and the Administrative Services Division) will identify the approximate anticipated vacancies in the

Sergeant rank for the year; and prior to the interview stage, HR will take into account any new information and update the final anticipated vacancies for the year.

Sergeant Application Process

19. To apply for the Sergeant rank, a Member must submit an application (cover letter and resume) and complete the following application requirements:
 - (1) Six years policing experience, with at least one year in an operational policing role at the Transit Police.
 - (2) 360° performance evaluation completed within the previous 12 months.
 - (3) Successfully pass the Sergeant level promotional exam, with a pass mark of at least 70%.
 - (4) Sign off by the Member's Supervisors (through chain of command) of the [Sergeant Promotion Endorsement Form \(TP Form AZ1000\)](#), providing a self-assessment outlining how the Member demonstrates the competencies and Transit Police values, and what the Member has done to prepare for promotion to or acting in a supervisory role.
20. Applications will be reviewed by the Inspector/HR Panel for endorsement/non-endorsement to proceed to the interview stage. Reviews also include:
 - (1) The Member's performance and attendance records; and
 - (2) A written submission from the Professional Standards Unit ("PSU") providing any relevant information that could form the basis for cause to remove a Member from the process.
21. Where a Member does not receive endorsement, the Member will be informed of the outcome and, as appropriate, a course of action decided (e.g. more coaching or training).
22. All endorsed Members will be interviewed by the Interview Panel.
23. After successful completion of the interview stage, Members will be placed on either the Eligibility List or Qualified List, for consideration for future vacancies.
 - (1) A Member's placement on the Eligibility or Qualified Lists is in alphabetical order without ranking or any other prioritization.

Sergeant Eligibility / Qualified Lists

24. Members placed onto the Eligibility List are eligible to be promoted to a Sergeant position and to fill Acting Sergeant Assignments.
25. Members placed onto the Qualified List are eligible to fill Acting Sergeant Assignments.

26. Acting Sergeant Assignments will be filled based on the following considerations, as so determined by the Chief Officer:
- Members on the Eligibility List;
 - Members on the Qualified List;
 - Needs of the Transit Police; and
 - Developmental needs of the Member.

[See also Transit Police Policy [AB380 – Acting Ranks and While So Employed](#)]

27. The duration of a Member's assignment in an Acting Sergeant role will be in accordance with the terms of the Collective Agreement and at the discretion of the Chief Officer (or designate), based on operational requirements and with consideration given to other Members on the Qualified List awaiting acting opportunities.
28. The Chief Officer, upon recommendation of the Selection Committee, may move a Member from the Qualified List to the Eligibility List in order to meet the needs of the organization.
29. Promotional selection and/or assignments from the Eligibility List will be the responsibility of the Chief Officer.
30. If a Member is not promoted to a Sergeant position after two years on the Eligibility or Qualified Lists, the Member must re-apply.
31. Members on the Qualified List will be expected to work towards becoming eligible for promotion or they may be removed from the Qualified List.

Performance Evaluation and Mentorship

32. The performance of a Member promoted to the position of Sergeant or acting in a Sergeant role will be regularly evaluated and documented, as follows:
- (1) During a Member's first 60 days after being promoted to a Sergeant position or being eligible to fill Acting Sergeant Assignments, the Inspector responsible for the section will regularly liaise with the Member's Supervisors and peers to evaluate the Member's performance.
 - (2) Upon completion of the first 60 days, the Inspector will meet with the Member to provide feedback on the Member's performance evaluation, identify any areas for improvement, develop an action plan to address any areas needing improvement, and determine the next feedback review meeting date.
 - (3) The Inspector will document the evaluation and action plan, using [TP Form AZ2080](#).
 - (4) A Member promoted to the position of Sergeant is required to successfully complete a 12-month probationary period before being confirmed as a

Sergeant. The evaluation of the Member's performance referenced in s. 32(1) of this policy will be considered in the probationary review.

33. It is the responsibility of Supervisors to provide ongoing mentorship to support and develop a Member in the role of Acting Sergeant.

Removal from Lists

34. Notwithstanding the selection process as set out in this policy, a Member may be removed from the Qualified List or Eligibility List, at any time, due to performance issues or as otherwise so determined by the Chief Officer.

STAFF SERGEANT SELECTION PROCESS

Eligibility & Acting Staff Sergeant Pool

35. A fully qualified Sergeant, with one or more years as a full-time Sergeant with the Transit Police, may apply to enter the Acting Staff Sergeant Pool.
36. The candidate must request an Acting Staff Sergeant Endorsement Form ([TP Form AZ1550](#)) from HR prior to applying. The TP Form AZ1550 must be completed and signed off by the candidate's Supervisor and Inspector. Once submitted, HR will review the candidate's performance and attendance records.
- (1) The PSU will be asked to provide to the Deputy Chief Officer Administrative Services any relevant information, in writing, that could form the basis for cause to remove a candidate from the process.
37. A candidate with no less than six months in the Acting Staff Sergeant Pool will be eligible to request a 360 performance evaluation ("360"), which is one of the mandatory requirements of the Staff Sergeant Promotion Competition. A 360 will remain valid for two years after being completed.
38. Where a candidate does not receive a full endorsement, the candidate will be informed of the outcome (including the Inspector Panel Review component) and, as appropriate, a course of action decided (i.e. more coaching or training).
39. A candidate not successful in joining the Acting Staff Sergeant Pool is encouraged to request feedback from their Inspector.
40. Once the steps outlined in s. 36 are completed, the candidate will be accepted into the Acting Staff Sergeant Pool.

Staff Sergeant Promotion Competition

41. The process itself is broken up into three steps as follows.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| (1) Resume Stage | Applicant validation only |
| (2) Assessment Document | |
| (3) Interview Stage. | |

Each step is weighted for a combined total of 100%. The weighting assigned to each step will be determined by the Selection Committee. The weighting breakdown for each promotion competition will be included in the competition posting.

Resume Stage

42. The Staff Sergeant Promotion Competition will normally be held once every calendar year, but may be varied if operational needs require deviation.
 - (1) Prior to the Resume Stage of the process, HR (with input from the Operations Division and Administrative Services Division) will publish the approximate anticipated vacancies in the Staff Sergeant rank for the year; and prior to the Interview Stage, HR will take into account any new information and publish the final anticipated vacancies for the year.
43. Before a candidate can proceed through the Staff Sergeant Promotion Competition in its entirety, the candidate must:
 - (1) Have a minimum 6 months experience as a qualified Acting Staff Sergeant; and
 - (2) Submit an application form (cover letter and resume) and completed [TP Form AZ1010](#).
44. HR will check the candidate's attendance and performance records and request the PSU to submit to HR any relevant information in writing.
45. HR may also contact the Supervisor(s) for clarification of details on the TP Form AZ1010. The purpose of the TP Form AZ1010 is to assess the level of support and to provide greater involvement and accountability from the candidate's Supervisors.
46. The application and TP Form AZ1010 must be approved by the Interview Panel prior to continuing in the competition. The application may not be accepted on issues related to, but not limited to: performance, experience, judgement, integrity and discipline.
47. HR will review the candidate's 360 results. This will not be scored but it will be used to determine strengths and areas of development.

Assessment Document

48. The candidate will be required to submit an Assessment Document. The Assessment Document will be used to determine whether the candidate has met the benchmark for each of the set core competencies at the Staff Sergeant level, as defined in the Core Competencies Definitions Chart. Each competency must be supported by the candidate's performance as a Sergeant and reach the competency window defined in the Staff Sergeant Competency statement.

- (1) The Assessment Document guidelines will be available at any time for review by Members upon request to HR.
49. The Interview Panel will evaluate how well the candidate's competencies match the core competencies required in the Staff Sergeant position. Each competency will be scored out of ten. The candidate must achieve a minimum score of five for each core competency before the candidate can proceed to the Interview Stage of the process.

Interview Stage

50. To proceed to the Interview Stage, the candidate must have:
- (1) Successfully completed the Assessment Document;
 - (2) Been added to the short list at the end of the Resume Stage; and
 - (3) Met a minimum score of five on each of the set competencies in the Assessment Document.
51. The candidate will be interviewed by the Interview Panel. The interview may consist of technical, behavioural descriptive and/or scenario type questions. The questions will not be provided prior to the interview and the candidate will not be permitted to bring any notes into the interview. A pass score of 70% is required to proceed.

Final Selection

52. At the end of the interviews, the Interview Panel will generate a pre-qualified list of candidates based on the sum of the Staff Sergeant Assessment Document, and Interview.
53. The qualification list will contain only as many candidates as the number of final anticipated vacancies published earlier. The list will be generated by placing the candidate with the highest overall score first on the list. In the event of a tie, first consideration will be given to the candidate with the most seniority, and if still tied, then swear in dates and then badge numbers will be used to break the tie.

Promotions

54. Promotions will occur as vacancies arise in order of the score obtained unless an operational need requires an exception. Reasons for the deviation will be provided to the affected candidates.
55. The Selection Committee will predetermine the number of vacancies before any promotional process; however, operational changes may result in fewer vacancies than anticipated. The Staff Sergeant eligibility list will remain until all pre-qualified candidates on the list are placed.

APPEALS

56. Any Member who does not receive endorsement to participate in a Sergeant or Staff Sergeant promotional competition may request a Selection Committee review of the decision.
57. Any Member removed for cause from the promotional process may submit an appeal to the Chief Officer.

TRANSFERS FOR SUBSTANTIVE SERGEANTS AND STAFF SERGEANTS

58. Substantive Sergeants and Staff Sergeants may request transfers for vacancies by submission of a completed [TP Form AZ0680](#).

[See also Transit Police Policy [AB380 – Acting Ranks and While So Employed](#)]

Key References

BC *Police Act* [RSBC 1996, Chapter 367]

British Columbia Provincial Policing Standards [Revised March 12, 2021]

Collective Agreement with Transit Police Professional Association [2020]

Transit Police Policy Chapter: AB130 – Training

Transit Police Policy Chapter: AB380 – Acting Ranks and While So Employed

South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Police Service Complaint and Operations Regulations [BC Reg. 484, 2004]