

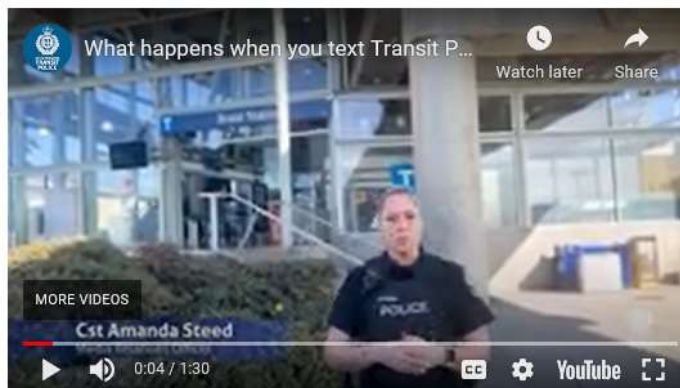


## METRO VANCOUVER TRANSIT POLICE REPORT FOR JUNE 2022 TRANSLINK BOARD MEETING

### TransLink Strategic Priority: Customer First

- **Transit Police OCC Operators**

In April 2022, Transit Police recognized the National Emergency Services Public Dispatchers and 911 Awareness week. Transit Police has its own Operations Communication Center ("OCC") and Operators to handle transferred calls from 911 – E-COMM and calls for service from the public and transit control centres. These Operators also respond to the SMS text 87 77 77 messages from transit riders and public. The Operators are the public's first point of contact during an emergency and they are tasked with obtaining information in a timely and relevant manner to relay to Transit Police being dispatched. In addition, Operators assist Transit Police in accessing criminal offender information from CPIC/PRIME during a detention or arrest.



Transit Police is proud of its OCC Operators who, while behind the scene, play a critical role keeping our transit community and Police Officers safe! In 2021, the Transit Police OCC handled 15,528 calls for service, of which 6,064 were a result of SMS texting. In April 2022, Transit Police released via social media a new YouTube video that explains to transit riders and the public

what happens when you text Transit Police and the role of the OCC.

[<https://youtu.be/H5H4ZTQxejA?t=4>]

- **Pedestrian Safety**

In February 2022, Transit Police was recognized by ICBC for its commitment and participation in the month-long 2021 Provincial Pedestrian Safety Campaign. "Nearly half (44 per cent) of all crashes with pedestrians happen between October and January and 79 per cent of crashes involving pedestrians happen at intersections." In the Lower Mainland, Transit Police - Neighbourhood Police Officers and volunteers worked alongside ICBC staff and local police at a variety of transit hubs to inform riders and keep pedestrians safe. Over 100,000 reflectors were distributed in this campaign, including to



thousands of transit riders whose need for a safe journey starts when they walk to and from their home, school or business.

### TransLink Strategic Priority: State of Good Repair

- **Anti-terrorism and Critical Incident Readiness**

Anti-terror policing is a central element of the Transit Police daily policing and public safety practice. A range of obvious and discreet methods continue to be employed by the Transit Police to detect, deny and deter any activity that poses a security risk to the transit system. Examples follows:

- Explosive Dog Team – Transit Police patrol officer presence continues to be supplemented by the daily deployment of the Transit Police’s Explosive Detection Dog Teams (seven dog teams cover four shifts), which includes regular security sweeps of transit physical infrastructure. In 2021, Transit Police dog teams conducted approximately 2,400 proactive sweeps and response to calls for service to an unattended/suspicious package or explosive threats. Transit Police Explosive Detection Dogs are highly trained, certified annually, and the teams participated in special training with counterparts from the Pacific Northwest in Q2 2022.



Potential Bomb Threat – In November 2021, at Gateway SkyTrain Station, a male told building security that his "son" left a bomb in the building and that he took it out, disarmed it, and put it the garbage at Gateway Station. The male was seen walking in and out of the SkyTrain Station. Transit Police were informed and verified via CCTV of the male’s movement in the Station. A Transit Police – Explosive Detection Dog Team attended and, based on threat assessment and Transit Police protocol, had the Station closed and evacuated. A sweep of the Station was conducted and it was confirmed that the Station was clear of any explosives. The Station was then reopened. In liaison with the Lower Mainland Integrated Police Dog Service, the Transit Police Dog Team then conducted a sweep of two floors in Gateway Tower, following which workers were cleared to return. Transit Police located the male involved nearby and it was determined that he may have an undiagnosed mental health disorder. The male voluntarily agreed to be transported by Transit Police for medical assistance.

- Tabletop Exercise with BCRTC – Tabletop and live exercise training is a component of Transit Police professional development and operational readiness for critical incidents. A tabletop exercise took place in April 2022 with Transit Police operational supervisors, the Transit Police Operations Communication Centre and representatives of the BC Rapid Transit Company (“BCRTC”). The exercise purpose was to test how Transit Police and BCRTC work together, identify opportunities and gaps in processes,

build relationships, and to understand each other's roles (including when Incident Command is transferred).

The scenario tested was response to robbery reported from a business, where the suspects were reported fleeing and Transit Police were notified and requested to attend a nearby station – Burquitlam Station. While Transit Police were on route, Transit Police OCC Operators contacted the SkyTrain Control Centre to inform them of the robbery. The suspects were seen entering the station and walking on the tracks toward the long tunnel outside of the station. The exercise went very well, with great follow-up discussion. Further tabletop exercises will follow – the next one with Canada Line staff.

- Police Partner Live Exercise – In May 2022, Transit Police helped facilitate Tubular Assault Training for Vancouver Police-ERT members. The training was conducted in conjunction with Canada Line Operations. It included a number of senior Transit Police Executives meeting with Canada Line Executives as well as a few Transit Police staff participating in the scenario. Interagency coordination is important in critical incidents and this collaborative training was valuable.
- Global Shield Network



Transit Police has joined the Global Shield Network (Vancouver Police and Calgary Police are also members), a law enforcement & intelligence network immersed in public/private sector partnerships designed to prevent crime, terrorism and improve public safety. SHIELD incorporates a community policing strategy that provides a platform to receive not only the latest terrorism information from around the world, but significant crime alerts and crime trends/security issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries. Partners receive access to periodic “real time” alerts/reports and various resources, and access to quarterly meetings designed to discuss intelligence trends and agency best practices. The partnership provides another tool for real time awareness of best practices designed to prevent crime and keep our community safe. The Transit Police Intelligence Officer is the liaison to this Network.

- SECURUS – Transit Police is now part of SECURUS, a 2008 initiative of RCMP “E” Division Integrated National Security Enforcement Team (“EINSET”), Vancouver Police Department and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (“CSIS”) designed to create awareness of terrorism pre-incident activity and encourage the reporting of such incidents to the police of jurisdiction and ultimately EINSET. SECURUS (“safety” in Latin) was modeled after “Project GRIFFIN”/United Kingdom and “Project NEXUS”/New York (initiated after 9/11). SECURUS is an opportunity to take the lead in providing innovative ways to reach the public with simple, clear and direct educational tips to recognize potential threats to public safety. While EINSET and Transit Police have unique mandates, there are significant overlaps around preventing terrorist activity within the public transit system. Educating

businesses/public about pre-incident terrorist activity helps increase general awareness of behavior and early indicators of behavioural changes, and works to facilitate earlier intervention options.

The target audience for SECURUS includes the employees of businesses (e.g., hotels, rental companies, storage companies, businesses at airports/transit hubs) who provide goods or services that could be exploited and/or used to carry out a terrorist incident. Such employees are best positioned to recognize anomalies in their environments. Transit Police will use its existing electronic mediums to allow both internal and external clients to learn about terrorism prevention and provide a means to report “odd” occurrences that they observe in their everyday environments. This type of communication/engagement aligns with the ongoing Transit Police “See Something – Say Something” campaign to help protect transit riders/staff and transit infrastructure. Through this partnership, there will also be future opportunity for national security awareness training to Transit Police and transit staff. Transit Police already has some officers trained as Counter Terrorism Information Officers (“CTIO”) and additional officers will receive CTIO training from EINSET.

- **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 2022 Q1 as compared to 2021 Q1 follows. In 2022 Q1, Transit Police had 5,037 Police Files, which is a 7% decrease from the same period last year.

Metro Vancouver Transit Police Crime and Safety Statistics	2022 Q1	2021 Q1	% Change
<b>Crimes Against Persons/100,000 Boarded Passengers</b> <i>(primary and assists)</i>	0.610	0.746	-18%
<b>Crimes Against Property/100,000 Boarded Passengers</b> <i>(primary and assists)</i>	0.800	1.043	-23%
<b>Other Criminal Code Violations/100,000 Boarded Passengers<sup>1</sup></b> <i>(primary and assists)</i>	.330	.497	-34%
<b>Provincial Violation Tickets (“VTs”)</b>	1172	1471	-20%
<b>Arrests - Warrants Executed (All)</b>	206	326	-37%
<b>Arrests - New Charges<sup>2</sup></b>	126	139	-9%
<b>Total S. 28 Mental Health Act Apprehension Files</b>	73	46	59%
<b>Sexual Offences</b> <i>(primary and assists)</i>	26	21	24%

<sup>1</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>2</sup> Arrest means an actual arrest and all other cases where charges were recommended to Crown Counsel.

<b>SCBCTA Fare Infraction Notices</b>	1237	1073	15%
<b>SMS Texts Conversations Converted to Police Files</b>	1176	1790	-34%

Ridership levels increased 53% in 2022 Q1 when compared to the same period in 2021, which was during the pandemic (66,915,153 Boarded Passengers/2022 Q1; 43,834,111 Boarded Passengers/2021 Q1). While the actual number of Crimes Against Persons and Crimes Against Property increased in 2022 Q1 (14% and 7% respectively), when considering the ridership increase, it has resulted in decreases in the rates of Crime Against Persons and Crimes Against Property per 100,000 Boarded Passengers for the comparative 2022 to 2021 periods. As previously reported during 2020 and 2021, criminal activity continued on or near the transit system throughout the pandemic. 2022 Q1 results show positive movement with the 18% decrease in the 2022 Q1 rate of Crimes Against Persons and 23% decrease in the rate of Crimes Against Property. Continued decrease is anticipated into Q2 2022. These two crime rates are an anomaly to historical trending prior to 2020; for example, the respective 2019 Q1 rates were 0.38/Persons and 0.41/Property.

Assault of Bus Passenger – In April 2022, a 17 year old girl boarded a bus headed to Newton Exchange/Surrey and sat down at the back of the bus. During the journey, a man boarded the bus and began acting erratically, and then sat near the teen. The suspect continued to act more agitated, eventually standing up and blocking the teen into her seat. Without any provocation, he allegedly punched her in the head several times, causing her glasses to fly off her face. The teen tried to defend herself and, when she bent over to pick up her glasses, the suspect allegedly used his knee to strike her in the head. The victim alerted the bus operator to the incident and reported it to Transit Police. Luckily, the victim did not sustain any serious physical injuries. Everyone has the right to arrive at their transit destination safely and without fear of being attacked. This unprovoked assault by a stranger was taken extremely seriously. Transit Police detectives launched an investigation and an appeal was made to the public for help to identify the suspect. Several tips came in from the media release and Transit Police identified the male. His residence was attended and he was arrested.

Stabbing/Slashing at Burquitlam SkyTrain Station – In March 2022, a victim was stabbed outside of Burquitlam SkyTrain Station. The victim ran into the SkyTrain Station, where the suspects gave chase and slashed the victim in the head with a machete. The victim had non-life threatening injuries and they were released from the hospital. After a thorough investigation by Transit Police, three suspects were identified and arrested, and Search Warrants were obtained on the suspects’ residences and cell phones.

Possession of Dangerous Weapon – In February 2022, Transit Police responded to a report of a man with a gun in front of a business across from Surrey Central Station. A Transit Police Officer approached the store and observed three males fighting on the ground and a black firearm visible during the struggle. As the males scattered, the Officer followed the male in possession of the firearm. The male was taken into custody by Transit Police and a loaded, Glock 19 restricted handgun was located in a holster in the front of his pants. The male was arrested for possession of a dangerous weapon and then transported to hospital for medical evaluation, due to injuries sustained from the altercation with the other males. While in hospital, he remained under Transit Police custody.

Graffiti – In January 2022, there were nine incidents of graffiti reported over SkyTrain property. The same graffiti tags had been seen elsewhere in the lower mainland. A Transit Police investigation led to the identification of the male suspect. He was arrested wearing the same clothing that he had worn during some of the incidents. During an interview, the suspect stated the tags were his way of getting his name out there and the tag was symbolic of a guardian angel. In February 2022, he was released with an Appearance Notice.

It is noted that in 2022 Q1, the number of assaults were 12% higher than same period in 2021, and 17% higher than the overall average. However, assaults with a weapon were down 58% as compared to same period in 2021, and down 19% from the overall average<sup>3</sup>.

The number of sexual offence files (primary and assists) for 2022 Q1 was up 24% from 2021 Q1 (26 files/2022 Q1; 21/2021 Q1); however, the monthly average for sexual offences in 2022 Q1 does remain below the overall average. Transit Police takes all reports of sex offences seriously and investigates thoroughly. 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. As done in previous years, Transit Police will be launching another anti-sexual offence campaign for the summer and return to school in the fall.

Stranger Gropings – Between January and April 2022, there were three gropings that occurred on a bus in Vancouver. The male suspect used his umbrella to cover his hands being placed on the thigh of women. Transit Police coordinated with the RCMP Pacific Region “ViCLAS” (Violent Crime Linkage Analysis System) Centre, who was able to use the information to locate an additional file from 2020. CCTV obtained on the three incidents showed the same suspect. The Transit Police General Investigation Unit, Targeted Mobile Enforcement Team and Patrol Officers conducted checks on the 99B line buses in Vancouver and were able to locate the suspect. The suspect was observed wearing the same clothing as worn during two of the incidents. The suspect was arrested by Transit Police and released on an Undertaking with a condition to not be found on buses.

Sexual Assault/Sexual Interference/Assault Police Officer – In March 2022, two victims (one 14 years old) were sexually assaulted in the same day. Through the Compass Card information, Transit Police investigators were able to identify the male suspect. The suspect was arrested by Transit Police at his residence, where he fought with police. The suspect was taken into custody and held for court. The suspect was remanded for a psychiatric evaluation.

There was a 59% increase in number of S. 28 apprehensions under the *Mental Health Act* when comparing 2022 Q1 to 2021 Q1, notwithstanding the reduced ridership. In part, the volume of apprehensions may be due to the focus of Transit Police and other Transit staff to watch out for vulnerable persons and check on wellness, as well transit riders being encouraged to report disorder or issues of safety/concern. Upon assessment at hospital, 81% of those apprehended in 2022 Q1 were admitted, self-admitted or held. The number also shows the dependency on the transit system of this vulnerable group.

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<sup>3</sup> The ‘overall average’ takes into account data from 2012 onward.

When comparing 2022 Q1 to 2021 Q1, there was a 34% decrease in SMS Text conversations with the Transit Police - Operations Communication Centre that led to a police file being generated. Some of this decrease is attributed to a reduction in complaints about non-compliance of mask wearing by riders as Public Health Orders for the pandemic changed. SMS text 87 77 77 continues to be promoted as a way for transit riders to discretely contact Transit Police when issues of concern arise while on transit.

### **Criminal Warrant Arrests**

One of Transit Police's three Strategic Pillars in the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan is to improve public safety by working closely with our cross regional police partners and developing strategies that prevent crime. In 2022 Q1, Transit Police Officers made 206 arrests for outstanding criminal warrants, which included RCMP, Municipal Police and Transit Police issued warrants from BC and elsewhere. The number of warrant arrests in 2022 Q1 was 37% lower than the same period in 2021. The reason for this drop is not known. The number of new charge arrests by Transit Police dropped by 9% in 2022 Q1, as compared to the same period in 2021.



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.

Warrant Arrest – Early evening on January 27, 2022, Transit Police were conducting patrols nearby the Surrey SkyTrain Station when they observed a male attempting to conceal drug paraphernalia while walking away from the Officers. The Officers spoke with the male, who verbally identified himself and admitted that he had a warrant but intended on turning himself in the following morning. Police Record queries confirmed two warrants related to the male out of Surrey RCMP and the Combined Forces Special Investigation Unit BC. The warrants related to multiple charges for Driving While Prohibited and Breach of Release Order. The male was arrested and transported to Surrey RCMP cells, where he was held for court.

### **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 (new legislation in 2017). In comparing 2022 Q1 to 2021 Q1, there was a 20% decrease in the number of VTs. This decrease is reflective of the lower ridership and it may partly be 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.



Canada-Wide Warrant – In March 2022, Transit Police were conducting fare checks at Surrey Central SkyTrain Station, where a male was appearing to evade police in the Station. Transit Police located the male on the mezzanine level of the Station and he stated that he did not have a fare and then pushed through the fare gates. Misuse of fare gates is a Provincial Violation. In order to confirm his identification for the VT, Police Records were queried and this revealed that he had five outstanding warrants (Vancouver Police) for serious charges. The male was arrested by Transit Police and transported to cells for court.