



Metro Vancouver Transit Police 2022 Report to the Community

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Message from the Police Board Chair

2022 was the first year covered by the new Transit Police Strategic Plan, which is now accessible on the Transit Police website. In addition to the Plan itself, members of the public will find reports posted every six-months that detail progress made against the Plan's Objectives.

Numerous supporting activities and initiatives occurred in 2022, including but not limited to: the creation of a new Operational Planning position for major events, establishment of an Equity, Diversity and



Inclusion policy with associated training for employees, the continued pilot of a Homeless Outreach program, the expansion of the Chief's Community Council, with several new member organizations joining, and greater use of technology solutions such as the early implementation of a Digital Evidence Management Solution (DEMS).

Following years of COVID-19 restrictions, Transit Police was finally able to host an in-person recognition event for our Waterfront Community Policing Centre volunteers. Dozens of volunteers were recognized in October 2022 for their actions in launching the program, developing relationships with local community groups, assisting transit passengers and members of the public (including the use of life-saving Naloxone) and managing participation at numerous community events throughout

Metro Vancouver to share awareness of transit safety tools and best practices. Their weekly deployments in Vancouver and support at community events throughout the region helped educate thousands of transit passengers about how to safely travel throughout the region. We are incredibly proud of the results our volunteers have achieved since the program launched in 2021.

In support of our commitment to Indigenous Reconciliation, Transit Police worked with a number of local police and community partners to expand the Blue Eagle Community Cadet program into Surrey. With support from the Surrey RCMP, Options Community Services, Surrey Crime Prevention Society, the Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre, Surrey Youth Hub, the Surrey Schools Aboriginal Liaison and City of Surrey Bylaws, over 40 youth participate in the Surrey program. This weekly program allows youth to learn about Indigenous culture and build important leadership skills, and it operates from September to June in both Surrey and Vancouver.

A big thank you goes out to our previous Police Board Chair, Sara Levine. 2022 marked the tenth and final year for Sara as a Police Board member, a full decade of dedicated service towards the advancement of public safety for millions of transit users. Sara leaves the police service in a healthy position, with planning/preparations underway for future growth and the very first Transit Police Community Safety Officers currently in the process of being hired. It was an honour for me to take on the role of Board Chair in 2023 and continue to advance many of the important conversations previously led by Sara.

Marnie Larson, Chair - Metro Vancouver Transit Police Board

Message from the Chief Officer

With passengers returning to the transit system following pandemic restrictions, rates of reported crime relative to ridership are also returning to levels previously seen pre-2020. Both rates of crimes against persons, including reported assaults and sex offences, and crimes against property, such as theft or vandalism, saw significant reductions in 2022. This was largely due to increased numbers of people riding buses and trains, while the volume of reported crime stayed level or saw much smaller increases.



A concern that we have observed is the continued increase in volume of calls related to persons experiencing a mental health crisis. Following a 24% year-over-year increase in apprehensions under Section 28 of the Mental Health Act between 2020 and 2021, Transit Police saw a further 13% increase in apprehensions in 2022. In over three quarters of cases, the individual was admitted to a hospital under the care of a physician. Our Strategic Plan recognizes that while police are often the first on scene to a mental health crisis, the role of police is ultimately to ensure everyone's safety and then connect the person in crisis with one of our partners. The Transit Police Mental Health Liaison Officer works with Vancouver Coastal Health, Fraser Health and other partners to ensure that patients/clients who regularly require assistance on the transit system are put in contact

with mental health teams and resources.

Perhaps the most notable event to take place at Transit Police occurred in November 2022, when we were notified that the Provincial Government had approved the establishment of the Transit Police Community Safety Officer program. Various Community Safety Officer Programs already exist at many of our jurisdictional police agency partners, although with differing legislation, powers and responsibilities. Within Transit Police, Community Safety Officers will supplement our police officers by providing additional uniformed visibility out on the transit system and in addressing low risk incidents that do not require the powers and tools of a police officer.

In addition to regular patrol duties, Community Safety Officers will assist with tasks such as community engagement, transit safety education, collection of evidence, perimeter security at police incidents, crowd control, fare enforcement, and support at major events and emergencies, along with other responsibilities. The first Community Safety Officers are set to be hired by mid-2023 and then deployed by the fall. This additional resource will assist in our ability to meet growing demands for service as the transit system continues to expand in the coming years, with two new SkyTrain lines as well as new buses being added to the fleet. Working alongside transit staff, including Station Attendants, bus operators, transit security, and our police officers, Community Safety Officers and Community Policing Centre volunteers will assist in enhancing the safe transit environment that passengers have come to expect.

Dave Jones, Chief Officer - Metro Vancouver Transit Police

2022 PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

Our work is guided by four operational priorities:
Reducing Sex Offences, Reducing Frontline Employee Assaults,
Helping Vulnerable People and Building System Resiliency.



Passengers on the Transit System

↑46%

2021: 223.5M boardings
2022: 325.9M boardings



Offences



↑15%

Crimes Against Persons¹
Up 15%

2021: 1,367
2022: 1,572



↓2%

Crimes Against Property
Down 2%

2021: 1,789
2022: 1,756



↓1%

Total Reported Files
Down 1%

2021: 19,930
2022: 19,669

Arrests

↓9%

Arrests on New Charges²
Down 9%

2021: 480
2022: 439

↓22%

Warrant Arrests
Down 22%

2021: 1,094
2022: 858

↓35%

Breaches³
Down 35%

2021: 271
2022: 175

¹ Since the volume of passengers on the transit system grew by 46%, and the volume of reported crimes grew by a smaller amount (or fell slightly for some crime types), crime rates dropped significantly in 2022. The rate of Crimes against Persons per 100,000 boarded passengers was down by 33%, from 0.80 to 0.54, and the rate of Crimes against Property per 100,000 boarded passengers was down by 21% from 0.61 to 0.48.

² Arrest means an actual arrest and all other cases where charges were recommended to Crown Counsel.

³ Breaches including secondary offences; does not include assists.

1. Sexual Offences



↑9%

Reported Sex Offences
are up by 9%
2021: 138
2022: 150

2. Total Mental Health Apprehensions



↑13%

Mental Health Apprehensions
are up by 13%
2021: 225
2022: 255

Naloxone Saves



↑19%

Naloxone Saves
are up by 19%

3. Workplace violence against bus operators



↑23%

Workplace violence against bus operators
are up by 23%
2021: 53
2022: 65

4. Searches for explosives and firearms

4,570 (in 2022)

Transit Police maintains its own Operations Communications Centre, which responds to calls and texts for service.

In 2022
2,541
text reports
resulted in a
police file



Transit Police Specialty Teams

Transit Police patrol officers deploy across Metro Vancouver on a daily basis to conduct proactive patrols and respond to calls for service. They are complemented by a variety of specialty teams that focus on hotspot areas of reported criminal activity. Below are just some examples of teams at work.

Community Engagement Team (“CET”): CET is comprised of a Community Engagement Sergeant, six Neighbourhood Police Officers (one for each Community Service Area), an Indigenous Liaison Officer and a Mental Health Liaison Constable. Projects in 2022 included the continued pilot of a Homeless Outreach program, in Q1/Q2, and safety outreach and education for diverse communities such as seniors, students and new immigrants.

Both the Waterfront Community Policing Centre and Blue Eagle Community Cadet Programs (Surrey and Vancouver) fall under the oversight of CET.



Targeted Mobile Enforcement Team (“TMET”): TMET targets those areas of the transit system that require focused enforcement initiatives, such as areas where fare enforcement is required, where vehicles are putting coaches at risk by entering/exiting bus lanes or where distracted driving, speeding and impaired driving near transit hubs impacts pedestrians safety.

In 2022, TMET issued 3397 Fare Infraction Notices and 2756 Provincial Violation Tickets, made 50 warrant arrests, issued 59 Immediate Roadside Suspensions, opened 268 police files and engaged in 128 joint operations with 32 different law enforcement agencies.



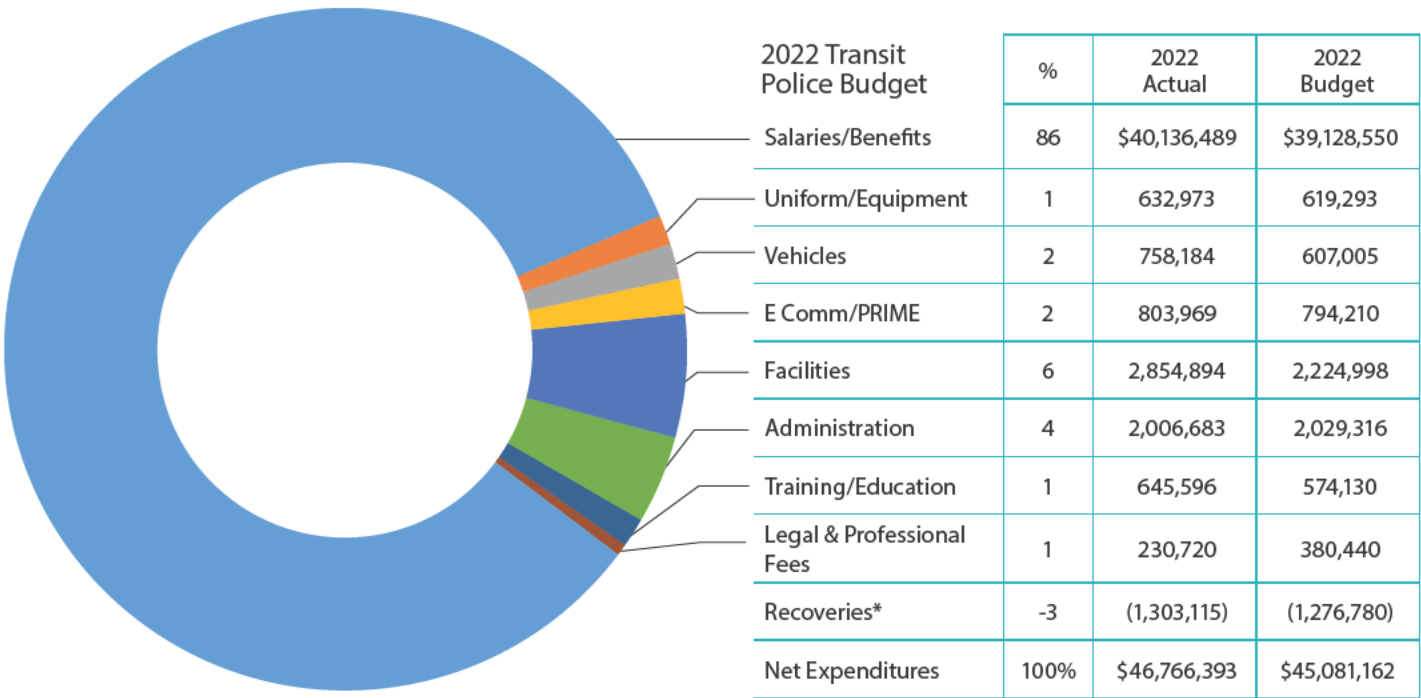
Crime Suppression Team (“CST”): CST focuses on project-based investigations, many of which are conducted with Jurisdictional Police Department partners when crime trends or hot spots are identified near the transit system.

In 2022, the CST conducted a variety of investigations which resulted in 35 Reports to Crown Counsel, 9 search warrants, 91 warrant arrests and engaged in 12 joint operations with other police partners to make arrests and reduce crime.



Financial Summary

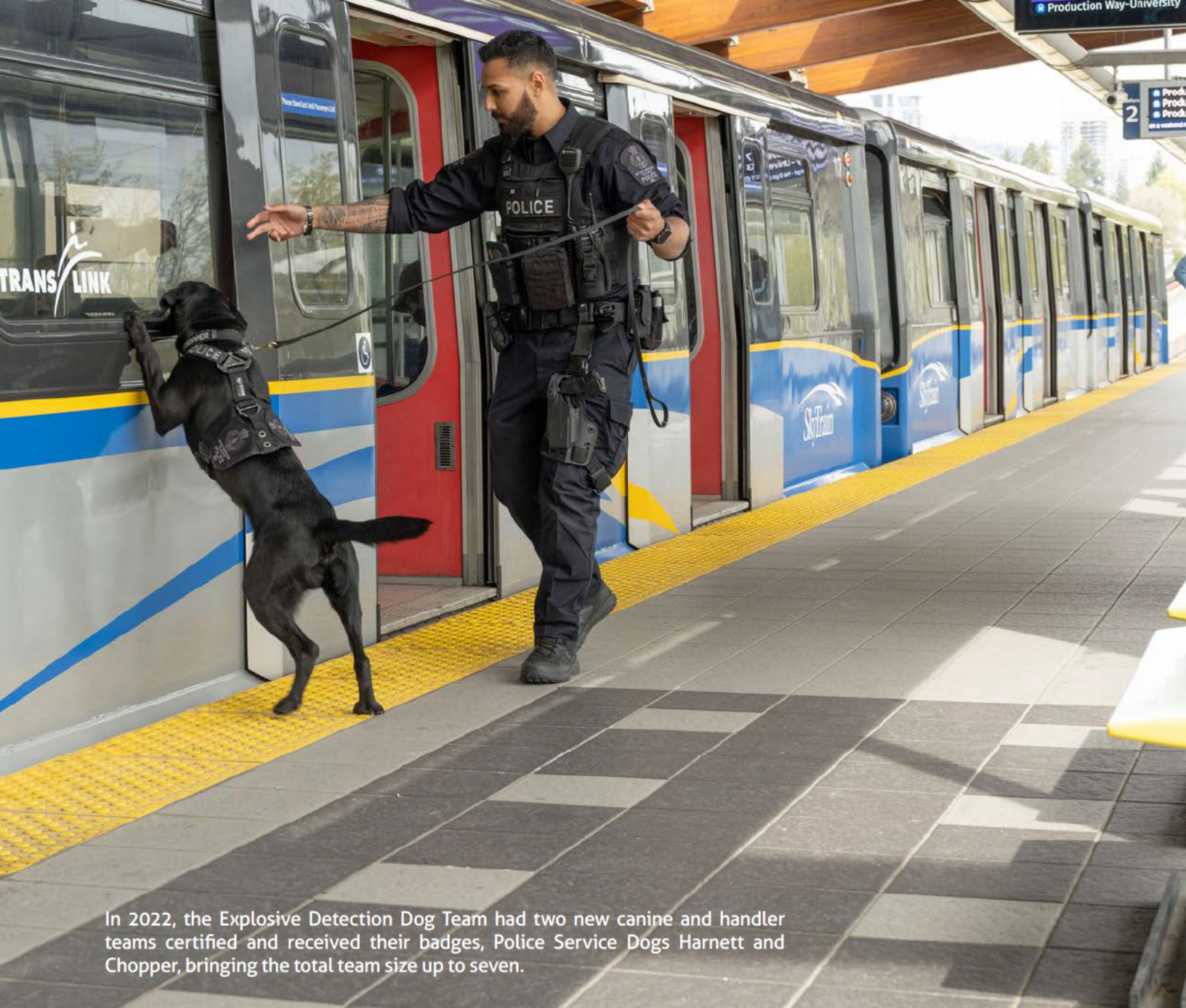
The Transit Police budget for 2022 was \$45,081,162. Total actual expenditures were \$46,766,393. The expenditures include TransLink allocated costs of \$4.8M for centralized services (premises rent and information technology services).



*Salaries represent the net costs to Metro Vancouver Transit Police after recoveries (i.e. those officers seconded and paid for by other joint police initiatives).
**Transit Police salaries are consistent with those of independent municipal police agencies in Metro Vancouver.



Both Transit Police Officers and Community Policing Centre volunteers carry life-saving nasal Naloxone kits. In 2022, Naloxone was successfully used on 56 occasions.



In 2022, the Explosive Detection Dog Team had two new canine and handler teams certified and received their badges, Police Service Dogs Harnett and Chopper, bringing the total team size up to seven.

For a complete breakdown of strategic initiatives at Metro Vancouver Transit Police in 2022, see our Strategic Plan Year End Update located at: <https://transitpolice.ca/news/strategic-plan-2022-2026/>



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