



South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Police Service

Designated Policing Unit

Chief Officer's Report

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PUBLIC

To: South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Police Service Designated Policing Unit Board ("Police Board")

From: Chief Officer Suzanne Muir
South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Police Service Designated Policing Unit ("Transit Police")

Date: November 14, 2023

Subject: Chief Officer's Report [Police Board Report No. 2023-58]

INFORMATION REPORT

PURPOSE

To inform the Police Board about the status of projects and initiatives undertaken at Transit Police since the last public meeting in September 2023.

UPDATE

The following reports covering the period of late September-November 2023 are provided by the respective sections within Transit Police.

1. Patrol Section – Administration

- Ten Community Safety Officers, Class 1, completed their training and have now been deployed to the Transit Police day shift Squads.
- A significant number of Transit Police employees attended the regimental funeral for Ridge-Meadows RCMP Constable O'Brien.
- The Patrol Section welcomed three new Recruits from the Police Academy for their Block II.



- A Patrol Officer has been assisting in coordinating Transit Police's ongoing intelligence-led enforcement of station locations with the highest estimated number of fare gate push-through incidents.
- The Enhanced Response Unit ("ERU") continues to move forward with more work being completed to procure equipment and assess processes. The ERU is a group of identified Officers who will receive enhanced training and have additional equipment to respond to specific emergencies such as critical incidents within the transit environment.

2. Patrol Section – Training

- Five Supervisors attended a five-day joint Supervisor Training course put on collaboratively between Transit Police and Delta Police. This is the first of two courses to be delivered between now and the end of 2024.
- Two Sergeants conducted in-house training with the Patrol Squads on high-risk arrest procedures.
- Five Officers completed a one-day Media Liaison orientation course that was generously hosted by the Vancouver Police Department. Further, training is currently being planned internally for early 2024. This helps support the identification of multiple Officers who can provide relief for the one dedicated Media Relations Officer during planned absences.

3. Patrol Section – Initiatives/Projects

Some examples of recent projects or events follow:

- Since the Spring of 2023, Patrol Squads have focussed on high visibility and active patrols in various stations, especially those identified through intelligence as having higher rates of crime/decreased perception of safety. Operations has also been proactive in joining with TransLink Operating Company partners (Canada Line, SkyTrain, Transit Security) to do joint patrols, joint fare enforcement initiatives and to support a higher visible presence in and around our system. These patrols not only enhance the perception of safety for our transit users but are invaluable in building relationships between the Operating Companies and Transit Police.
- Members of Operations Division are working closely with our counterparts at the Vancouver Police Department in preparation for FIFA 2026. Vancouver is the host city



but the transit system will be the main mechanism for residents and visitors to go to and from FIFA event locations and Vancouver International Airport. It is important that Transit Police has sufficient time and resources allocated for this significant event in June/July 2026.

- A Staff Sergeant from Patrol was invited by the US Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms Department and the Attorney General of Virginia to deliver an Internet Investigations/Dark Web/Artificial Intelligence Workshop to 450 Gang Investigators in Virginia Beach, Virginia.
- A Patrol Corporal developed and implemented a two-day project focusing on executing outstanding warrants and release condition compliance of offenders from Transit Police files. Transit Police was able to secure funding for the project through the provincial Repeat Violent Offender Intervention Initiative ("REVOII"). The initiative resulted in ten individuals being arrested on outstanding warrants.
- Two Patrol Officers also developed and implemented a two-day project, utilizing the REVOII funding as well. Their project focused on increasing the police presence and enforcement along the SkyTrain section in Surrey.
- Naloxone Deployments for this reporting period: 8.
- Mental Health Apprehensions for this reporting period: 16.

4. Investigation Section – General Investigations Unit ("GIU")

- In mid-October, Surrey RCMP received a call from a male threatening to bomb Transit Police Headquarters. The caller was subsequently identified through the subscriber information and it was determined that Transit Police Officers had dealt with the person a few hours earlier and arrested the person in relation to a graffiti/ mischief file. GIU obtained a search warrant and executed it at the person's residence, where evidence was located linking the person to several hate crime mischief/graffiti files. The person is currently in custody on charges arising from a separate matter. Transit Police's investigation is ongoing.

5. Investigation Section – Crime Suppression Team ("CST")

- As a follow-up to a previous investigation, CST utilized gathered intelligence to focus resources on individuals trafficking drugs in Richmond, Vancouver and Surrey, which included use of the transit system in their activities. In early October 2023, CST



executed five search warrants at residences in Surrey, Richmond and Vancouver, which resulted in a significant seizure of drugs, numerous firearms, cash and multiple vehicles. The arrests and warrant executions were conducted with the assistance of Surrey RCMP North Crime Reduction Unit and the Lower Mainland Emergency Response Team. Through the execution of the search warrants, five individuals were arrested but later released as the investigation is ongoing.

- CST assisted Patrol with a two-day undercover drug buy operation in Surrey and New Westminister. Transit Police was the lead agency for the project, which utilized multiple outside agency resources due to Special Investigation Targeted Enforcement ("SITE") funding, provided through the provincial government. The drug buys took place around SkyTrain Stations in New Westminister and Surrey. The operation utilized resources from Transit Police patrol, CST, GIU, as well as from Surrey RCMP, New Westminister Police Department, Vancouver Police Department, Surrey Police Service and Abbotsford Police Department (i.e., provided undercover operators). Arrests were made and the project resulted in 14 charges being recommended, two outstanding warrants being executed and the seizure of one prohibited weapon and a quantity of drugs and cash.
- In early November 2023, CST facilitated an in-house training day with the assistance of the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – BC ("CFSEU-BC").

6. Investigation Section – Criminal Intelligence Unit ("CIU")

- CIU continues to assist internal units and external partners with the identification of suspects. Since the last reporting period, CIU has identified 17 suspects. CIU continues to liaise with our jurisdictional policing partners on intelligence sharing, in addition to attending several meetings, including Vancouver Police Department Youth, Integrated Youth At-Risk, Public Order Enforcement Meeting ("POEM"), Organized Crime Gang Call, New Westminister High-Risk Offender and CFSEU-BC Weekly Uniform meetings.

7. Investigation Section – Professional Standards Unit ("PSU")

- PSU hosted a Complaint Resolution Workshop, facilitated by the Office of Police Complaints Commissioner ("OPPC"). In addition to OPCC representatives, the workshop was attended to by eleven different police agencies. The workshop focused on utilizing restorative justice options to resolve lower level *Police Act* complaints, with an emphasis on interactions with the Indigenous community.



8. Operational Support Section – Community Engagement Team (“CET”)

- The Neighborhood Police Officers (“NPOs”) attended a wide variety of events over the past six weeks, including but not limited to: four ICBC Pedestrian Campaign events, 14 safety presentations to various community groups, four Translink Enterprise Violence in the Workplace Committee meetings and safety presentations, and the UBC Safety Fair (this was with UBC RCMP and the Transit Police Waterfront Community Policing Centre volunteers).
- The Indigenous Liaison Officer (“ILO”) ran the weekly Blue Eagle Community Cadet sessions in both Vancouver and Surrey during the reporting period. The ILO also attended the Sto:lo Pow Wow (three-day event), where the Blue Eagle Community Cadets table attracted new applicants for the program, the Aboriginal Community Policing Centre General Meeting, the Indigenous Art Ceremony at King George Station and the Friendship Walk on the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.
- The Mental Health Liaison attended a joint Surrey RCMP, Bylaws and Safe Point meeting regarding mental health clients on public transit and the BC Provincial Mental Health Team meeting, which is attended by various policing agency partners.
- A new Volunteer Coordinator civilian position, supporting the Waterfront Community Policing Centre, started in early November, replacing the NPO who was previously filling this role.

9. Operational Support Section – Transit Police Explosive Detection Dog Service (“K9 Unit”)

- Four members of the Transit Police K9 Unit attended the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (“ATF”) Conference in Seattle Washington. Handlers were able to train with homemade explosives (“HMEs”) as well as certify to the ATF’s National Odor Recognition Test (“NORT”) validation standard.
- Two members of the Transit Police K9 Unit attended the National Police Dog Championships in Barrie, Ontario. Constable Shillito placed second and Constable Mackay placed fourth in the competition.

10. Operational Support Section – Community Safety Officer (“CSO”) Program

- The first class of 10 CSOs successfully completed Block 1 and 2 of the CSO program and graduated on Nov. 2, 2023 and have joined Patrol in daily deployments out on the transit system.



- On Nov. 6, 2023, the second class of 10 CSOs started their ten-week Block 1 (in class) training. The CSO Recruits will then have an eight-week period of field training (Block 2), before graduating in April 2024.

11. Operational Support Section – Operations Communications Centre (“OCC”)

- Four Casual Trainees were hired for the OCC. Classroom training began on October 3 and has been successfully completed. Currently, the Trainees are working with their mentors and are expected to complete their training by the end of November.
- The OCC “Info” Operator classroom training is scheduled to begin in early December 2023. Info Operators cover a variety of duties in support of Officers on the road, dispatchers and call takers. Their primary responsibility is responding to Officers over the radio.
- “Dispatch” classroom training for the first class is scheduled to begin in early February 2024, with a second class scheduled to start April 2024.

12. Operational Support Section – Targeted Mobile Enforcement Team (“TMET”)

- TMET participated in various joint forces operations. TMET sent members to two commercial vehicle inspections with various partners (including Delta Police Department and Vancouver Police Department) and a “RailSafe” event with Canadian Pacific Police and Ridge Meadows RCMP, which aims to bring together different police and transit partners to convey the importance of safety in and around the rail system.
- TMET participated in two distracted driving events in Richmond and Vancouver with jurisdictional police partners, ICBC representatives and volunteers. TMET also participated in a CounterAttack initiative in New Westminster and two pedestrian safety events with the jurisdictional police and ICBC representatives at Lougheed and Joyce SkyTrain Stations.
- TMET hosted and had three Transit Police members presenting at a five-day commercial vehicle inspection course at the Regional Municipal Training Centre in Delta. The course included police from Delta, Vancouver, New Westminster, and the Integrated Road Safety Unit, as well as representatives from Surrey Bylaws and Langley Bylaws.



13. Administrative Services Division – Facilities

- The Waterfront Community Policing Centre office renovations were completed.
- A feasibility study on a potential deployment office in the Surrey/Langley area has commenced, in anticipation of the Surrey-Langley SkyTrain extension and growing bus ridership south of the Fraser River.

14. Administrative Services Division – Recruiting

- The Recruiting Section hired five Police Recruit Constables and four experienced lateral Police Constables.
- Sixteen different community events and job fairs were attended within the Lower Mainland.
- Five information sessions were held for potential Police Constable and the Community Safety Officer hires.
- Recruiters conducted twenty-six personal meet-and-greets with interested members of the public.

15. Administrative Services Division – Training

- “Warrant Service” training was completed with CST during this reporting period.
- “Trauma-Informed Practice Foundations” training has started for all Transit Police Officers (as well as the CSOs). This training supports the new BC Provincial Policing Standards on Unbiased Policing and its expectation that all employees provide services in a culturally safe, responsive, and trauma-informed manner.
- Annual Officer “force options” training continues to be completed throughout the year.



16. Administrative Services Division – Information Management (“IMS”)

- IMS has been working with IT to find alternatives for the transfer of digital data since the worldwide MoveIT vulnerability was reported on by MoveIT in June 2023.
- The DEMS project has officially been closed and work has been completed on the Records Management System (“RMS”) training site to accommodate DEMS and CSO training.

CONCLUSION

The updates highlight some of the important work performed at Transit Police over the previous couple of months. A more in-depth report capturing all strategic activities over the duration of 2023 is provided as part of the semi-annual Strategic Planning report process. The next Strategic Plan update is anticipated in the February 2024 Police Board package. (This report augments other topical information and quarterly crime statistics that is provided in the Chief Officer's quarterly reports to the TransLink Board and also included in the Police Board's agenda package.)

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