



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 16, 2024

Subject: Chief Officer's Report [Police Board Report No. 2024-57]

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 2024.

UPDATE

The following reports covering the period of early September 2024 – early November 2024 are provided by the respective sections within Transit Police.

Cross Regional: *The following Operational updates support Strategic Pillar #1 – Cross Regional Policing, including but not limited to:*

- *Strategic Pillar: “The transit system’s expansive geography uniquely enables Transit Police to build strong relationships with all cross regional policing partners in Metro Vancouver to improve public safety. To address local, regional and international threats to the transit system, Transit Police will participate in joint-agency policing opportunities and be embedded in planning for transit growth.”*
 - *Prevention: We develop strategies with our partners that prevent crime*
 - *Number of joint initiatives with cross regional policing partners, with results from substantive joint initiatives*
 - *Action 1.1.1: Use both Transit Police and cross regional police information/intelligence to develop and implement targeted initiatives.*



1. Patrol Section – Administration

- The Grey Cup Festival week ran from November 11 to November 17, with events occurring at the Vancouver Convention Center on days leading up to the actual Grey Cup game at BC Place Stadium. With additional ridership on the transit system, Transit Police officers increased their presence at Waterfront and Burrard Stations to provide safety during the festival events and at Stadium Station on game day. In addition, Transit Police embedded an officer inside the Vancouver Emergency Operations Center (“EOC”) to provide transit updates and intelligence, while staying in constant communication with the Festival Operations Team.
- November 9 was ‘Take Your Kids to Work Day’ across the province, providing students with the opportunity to experience work with their parents instead of attending school. Transit Police hosted nine grade 9 students on an engaging day of law enforcement activities, including an explosive detection dog team demonstration, vehicle speed gauging with the Targeted Mobile Enforcement Team, a transit safety tour, a visit to the Operations Communication Centre, a seized exhibits showcase and a use of force simulator. The day was organized by the Transit Police Strategic Services team and multiple other sections, including Patrol, assisted with the activities.

2. Patrol Section – Training

- In October, numerous Constables and Community Safety Officers took part in a two-day Peer-to-Peer Support training as part of Transit Police’s Critical Incident Stress Management program. The training helps sworn officers and civilian professionals deal with emotional and physical effects after a critical incident. Peer support is an ongoing mechanism for employees to connect with peers to develop their knowledge and confidence to manage issues that might be affecting their health.

3. Patrol Section – Initiatives/Projects and SITE Funded Initiatives

- Transit Police Patrol Officers initiated a two-day project, funded through the Special Investigations and Targeted Enforcement (“SITE”) Program, to target violent and property crime at and around Commercial Broadway Station. On September 27 and October 5, six officers deployed in uniform and plain clothes capacity to covertly patrol the location with an objective to prevent violence and enhance public safety. The project resulted in 11 arrests, 19 violation tickets, 10 fare infraction notices and 16 liquor violations.



- On September 24, a media outlet reported that a New Westminster resident stated people have been shouting and using drugs at a bus stop and that a little girl was unable to catch the bus as she could not wait at a stop. In mid-October, Transit Police Patrol Officers implemented a three-day project to target offences and loitering at bus stops along the transit system. This project resulted in one arrest on an outstanding warrant, four drug possession arrests, four liquor violations and 16 vulnerable individuals who were offered resources and moved along to clear occupied bus stops.

4. Investigation Section – Crime Suppression Team (“CST”)

- In September 2024, CST completed a six-month investigation which led to arrests and a large amount of drugs and firearms being seized. This resulted in charges against two individuals and halted a sophisticated Surrey-based drug dealing operation centred in and around Surrey, including at the transit system, which disguised fentanyl as dog treats. Charges have been approved for two individuals, both from Surrey, including; 10 counts of Trafficking in a Controlled Substance, four counts of Possession of a Controlled Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking, two counts of Trafficking a Firearm and four counts of Possession of a Firearm without a Licence.

5. Investigation Section – Criminal Intelligence Unit (“CIU”)

- Since the last reporting period, the Transit Police Crime Analysts have identified a Person of Interest (“POI”) in 15 separate Transit Police investigations. The Crime Analysts have also provided a POI in four external police investigations. The Forensic Video Analyst(s) processed (or continued to work on) 51 Transit Police investigations that have been forwarded to Crown or continue to be investigated for charges.

Engaged Community Partners: *The following Operational updates support Strategic Pillar #2 – Engaged Community Partners, including but not limited to:*

- *Strategic Pillar: “As the breadth of people and places served by the transit system expands, we will seek the expertise of our enterprise and community partners to ensure transit users can access the services they need when they need them. We will work with neighbourhood partners to ensure transit hubs are safe spaces within the community, while also improving perceptions of safety on transit for all.”*
 - *Care: Transit users get the community services they need when they need them*
 - *KPI #9 (Mental Health Interventions)*
 - *Effectiveness: Officers focus on what they are trained to do.*
 - *Perceptions: Transit users feel safe taking transit.*
 - *KPI #7 (Increased Perceptions of Safety).*



- *Action 2.1.2: Capitalize on a tiered policing approach, including Community Safety Officers and volunteers, to enhance outreach to diverse and vulnerable people.*
- *Action 2.3.1: Continue to support Reconciliation and strengthen relationships with Indigenous peoples through existing programs/services and by developing existing/new services, via consultation and engagement.*

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

- The Neighbourhood Police Officers (“NPOs”) attended a wide variety of events and presentations over the past six weeks, including but not limited to: presenting about the Transit Police mandate and service delivery model, future plans for system expansion, safety tips and awareness at the Ismaili Centre of Vancouver, Transit Safety at York House Private School, a Community Safety Workshop with Crimestoppers and the Chinatown CPC, Car Free Day along Commercial, a Coach Operator Seminar, Raising of the Survivors Flag, the BC Law Enforcement Memorial and the Day of Truth and Reconciliation Walk. In addition, the team engaged with Jurisdictional Police partners at the UBC Community Partner Safety Day and a Transit Safety Info Session with White Rock RCMP.
- The Indigenous Liaison Officer (“ILO”) facilitated the San’yas Indigenous Cultural Safety Course at the Justice Institute of British Columbia, provided to the Police Recruit class, and assisted with the Circle of Understanding. He also participated in the RCMP Indigenous Policing Services Training for one week. The ILO met with Vancouver Police Department’s Diversity Unit Officers to continue to build on our strong relationships and attended meetings with the Fraser Regional Aboriginal Friendship Centre and the Surrey Police/Surrey RCMP regarding Kekinow Housing. Our Blue Eagle Cadet Program resumed mid-September and eight Cadet sessions were held. The ILO also assisted in a file involving a high-risk missing youth.
- The Mental Health Liaison Officer (“MHL”) attended mental health partnership meetings to discuss the use of Canadian Mental Health resources (along with Coast Mountain Bus Company and TransLink). The MHL also presented to the new Station Attendant (“STA”) hire class at the BC Rapid Transit Company’s Operating Maintenance Centre (“OMC2”) on Transit Police and Mental Health.
- Transit Police’s Waterfront Community Policing Center (“CPC”) volunteers had their most active month in October, with 455 volunteer hours, including 79 hours assisting our Blue Eagles Cadet Program. They were able to run volunteer patrols seven days/week. CPC volunteers attended a wide variety of events over the past six weeks, including but not limited to: Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (“ICBC”)



Distracted Driving event (Targeted Mobile Enforcement Team, Vancouver Police, ICBC and volunteers), numerous ICBC Pedestrian Safety Events, Heroes in the Park in Port Coquitlam and Car Free Day in Lonsdale, University RCMP Open House on transit safety, and the Girl Guides "How-To Festival."

7. Operational Support Section – Transit Police Explosive Detection Dog Service ("K9 Unit")

- The K9 Unit has a new dog that has undergone rigorous training and certification, and is now deployable, effective November 13, 2024. This dog will replace Police Service Dog ("PSD") Diesel, who will be retiring at the end of November 2024. We thank Diesel for his eight years of service to the Transit Police. An announcement regarding the new dog's name will be made in the new year.
- The K9 Unit is collaborating with the RCMP Explosive Disposal Unit ("EDU") to conduct mutually beneficial training scenarios on both the Canada Line and SkyTrain lines. This training will familiarize the EDU with our trains and systems while exposing our handlers to the experience of working with explosive technicians in the field.
- In October, two K9 Handlers travelled and participated at the Canadian Police Canine Association Police Service Dog Championships in Calgary, Alberta. Constable Mackay with PSD Harnett finished in 2nd place and Constable Hubbard with PSD Silver placed 3rd in this explosive detection dog competition.
- During this period, the K9 Unit continued to respond to suspicious package calls on the transit system. The use of our explosive detection dogs means that suspicious packages and threats of this nature can be handled quickly, which enables transit stations to remain open and service disruptions to be minimized.

8. Operational Support Section – Community Safety Officer ("CSO") Program

- CSO Class 3 completed their training and graduated on September 26. All CSOs are now active in the field working with the Patrol Squads, allowing for a full complement of 24 officers.



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

- Sergeant Newton and Constable Nijjar are now members of the Road Safety BC Traffic Enforcement Community of Practice (“TECoP”). TECoP is coordinated by the Enhanced Traffic Enforcement Program (“ETEP”). TECoP focuses on providing RoadSafetyBC programs, whose primary business is related to front-line traffic enforcement.
- Over the past six weeks, TMET held five Provincial Traffic Priority Distracted Driving events. In October, they held events on Pedestrian Safety with ICBC and CPC Volunteers, as well as a CounterAttack Roadblock with the Burnaby RCMP. Multiple fare check events were also conducted in conjunction with Transit Security.
- On November 8, TMET initiated a Bus Lane Enforcement joint project with Transit Security in the City of Vancouver. A total of 141 Violation Tickets were issued by officers. Bus Operators expressed their appreciation for the enforcement project.

Modern Policing Culture: The following Operational updates support Strategic Pillar #3 – Modern Policing Culture, including but not limited to:

- *Strategic Pillar: “To best serve transit users, our workforce culture must transition to a distinct and collaborative approach for policing the transit system. This shift will impact how we are governed, and how we hire, deploy, promote and retain our employees. Every employee should report to a leader they trust, who provides an environment of open communication and where employee ideas are sought and valued.”*
 - *Skills: Our employees have the skills and tools they need for the job they are expected to perform.*
Action 3.2.1: Provide employees with the technologies required to work productively at the office or remotely.
 - *Objective 3.3: Our recruitment efforts will support diversity, and highlight our diverse workforce and the nature of policing a multi-jurisdictional transit system. We will support our employees with Transit Police-specific training, a career map that provides for professional development, and diverse opportunities for growth and promotion.*
 - *Action 3.3.2: Provide all employees with a development plan and ongoing training. This should include cross training to expand each employee’s potential for future opportunities/promotions within the organization.*



10. Administrative Services Division – Facilities

- A new Transit Police office space was built as part of the Brentwood SkyTrain Station renovation. The office space is located on the mezzanine level and it will soon be turned over to the police service for outfitting.

11. Administrative Services Division – Recruiting

- The Recruiting Unit is currently focused on processing a number of recruit applicants to fill recruit seats for the January class at the Police Academy. The unit is also working to process a number of experienced police officers who have applied to Transit Police.
- Recruit Class 173 graduated in early November. Four Transit Police officers graduated with that class and they will now be joining the patrol section.

12. Administrative Services Division – Training

- The Training Unit has been working collaboratively with the Alzheimer's Society of BC, to provide additional 'in service' training to Transit Police officers on dementia. A training program has been developed and it is scheduled to launch in January 2025 to coincide with Alzheimer's awareness month.

13. Administrative Services Division – Information Management ("IMS")

- The Inspector Administrative Support Section, along with several Subject Matter Experts within the Information Management Section ("IMS") have been asked to participate in a Municipal Police Disclosure Committee, which is a sub-committee of the Crown/Police Liaison Committee. As a regional police service, Transit Police's IMS has considerable experience and they will be well positioned to provide support and advice, while our police service and municipal police partners examine issues related to evidence disclosure across multiple jurisdictions.

14. Administrative Services Division – Human Resources ("HR")

- Respectful Workplace Training is being delivered to all supervisors, along with the Senior Leadership Team, in November and December.



15. Administrative Services Division – Information Technology (“IT”)

- During October and November, all Transit Police employees participated in annual cyber awareness and security training. The training was updated for all TransLink enterprise employees in 2024, in partnership with a third-party cyber security consultant, with new course modules offered to cover updated risks and security best practices.

CONCLUSION

These 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 2024 is provided as part of the semi-annual Strategic Planning report process. The next Chief Officer Report is anticipated as part of the February 2025 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 provided to the Police Board.)

Chief Officer Suzanne Muir

Author: Stephen Crosby, Senior Manager Strategic Services

Submitting Senior Executive Member: Chief Officer Suzanne Muir