



TRANSIT POLICE

BI-MONTHLY REPORT

September 15, 2009

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PART A: COMPREHENSIVE POLICING

High Visibility Policing (All Transit Modes)

High Visibility Policing Initiatives are part of the Transit Police's comprehensive policing strategy. High Visibility Policing Initiatives include proactive, intelligence-led, targeted enforcements that assist Transit Police in addressing both real and perceived concerns relating to safety and security on our transit system and the surrounding neighbourhoods. This proactive approach not only enhances interactions and communication with transit passengers, but also serves as a means of enhancing education and prevention relating to fare compliance and security measures. For the January to August 2009 period, Transit Police conducted a total of 1,045 High Visibility Policing Initiatives and checked 275,839+ passengers.

Transit Police Other Indicators	August 2009	2009 YTD
# of High Visibility Initiatives	184	1,045
# of Initiatives Involving STAs	92	609
Persons Checked	39,932	275,839+
VTs Issued	980	9,419
Warrant Arrests	15	81
On-view Arrests	13	115
# Actual Hours	154.76	802.51
# Member Hours	439.12	3206.52

**Data re: "# of Persons Checked", "Warrant Arrests" & "On-view Arrests" incomplete for January 2009; Audit of YTD data may affect previously reported statistics.*

The High Visibility Policing Initiatives in August resulted in more warrant arrests than any other month to date, with 15 outstanding warrants executed as a result of person checks done. August 17, 2009 marked the official opening of the Canada Line, with 16 stations linking Richmond and the Vancouver Airport to Vancouver. The average non-compliance rate for combined SkyTrain and Canada Line Stations in August was 4.3%, which is below the average year-to-date non-compliance rate for all stations of 5.2%. In August, rates were highest at the Gateway/Surrey and Royal Oak/Burnaby Stations.

Bus System & West Coast Express - Five of the High Visibility Policing Initiatives in August focused on the bus system, with an average non-compliance rate of 6.2%. This rate was higher than usual due to impact of three initiatives done on 99B Line buses, which had a non-compliance rate ranging from 7.3 to 13.6%. The three High Visibility Policing Initiatives done on the West Coast Express resulted in a 1.3% average non-compliance rate.

Intelligence Led

The Transit Police Crime Reduction Unit was recently engaged in an investigation where a suspect broke into a large number of Ticket Vending Machines on the West Coast Express Line. The suspect is presently in custody on other charges by a municipal police force. Transit Police is preparing a Report to Crown Counsel recommending further charges against the individual.

Partnerships, Outreach and Community Safety

Media Releases - The Transit Police Media Relations Officer has been working hard communicating to the media and public about the activities of the Transit Police and efforts to provide a safe transit system, safe workplace and safe neighbourhoods. One recent release outlined Transit Police efforts during the Labour Day weekend. Transit Police received 149 calls for service over that weekend and some selected files are provided to show the scope of policing duties:

*The weekend shifts started out with the usual commuter rush into the Downtown Vancouver area on Friday. At 08:06 am **Sept. 04th**, the first arrest of the weekend was made at King George Station. A twenty-three year old male was taken into custody under the Mental Health Act because he had been talking about jumping in front of a train or a bus. The male was escorted to Surrey Memorial for assessment.*

At 09:40 am, Transit Police were called to the Olympic Village Station responding to a suspicious package complaint. A thorough search of the area failed to locate any suspicious packages or devices. There were no disruptions in services due to this situation.

At about 10:30 during a fare check, a twenty year old Vancouver man was arrested at Commercial Station. The male had an outstanding arrest warrant for failing to comply with a probation order.

At 1:00 pm at Gateway Station, during a fare check, officers located a male and female together. The female lied about her identification and was detained. Investigation showed the male had been ordered by the courts not to be in contact with the female. He was arrested and held in custody.

At about 6:00 pm, officers conducting foot patrols near the Main Street Station observed male selling drugs to another male. When the officers intervened, one of the men tried to push past them. A struggle ensued and that suspect was arrested. An amount of hashish was located during the search. Both males, in their twenties are now facing drug charges.

***Saturday, Sept. 05th** morning was quiet. During the afternoon, Transit Police Officers arrested several intoxicated persons in the Downtown stations. All persons were detained until sober.*

Early Sunday morning, Sept. 06th at about 01:20 am, an intoxicated male sucker punched a SkyTrain Attendant at Sapperton Station. With the assistance of another SkyTrain Attendant, the male was held until police arrived. The nineteen year old is now facing assault and weapons charges. The SkyTrain Attendant suffered lacerations and bruising. The whole incident was caught on CCTV cameras.

At about 09:30 Sunday morning at Olympic Village Station, Transit Police arrested a woman for using a false name and being in possession of numerous false identity cards and a forged Canadian passport. Investigation revealed that this forty-one year old woman is missing from a court ordered mental health facility in Quebec. She has been missing since 2007.

On Sunday at about 2:30 pm, a Transit Police Officer patrolling on bike near Gateway Station stopped another cyclist who was not wearing a helmet. During his conversation with the male, the investigation revealed an outstanding warrant for the male's arrest, the offence being driving a motor vehicle while prohibited.

Monday Sept. 07th at 09:42 am, two Transit Police Officers conducting foot patrols around Yale Town Station checked a suspicious male. Investigation revealed he was wanted on a Canada Wide Warrant for revocation of his parole. The thirty-eight year old male was taken into custody without incident.

At 2:30 pm, two Transit Police Officers were conducting fare checks at Gateway Station. One male checked without a fare was identified and the investigation showed he was wanted on an outstanding warrant for abduction (from Surrey RCMP). The thirty-one year old male was taken into custody and taken to Surrey RCMP cells.

At 6:30 pm, Transit Police checked a male at Nanaimo Station for a valid fare. He was unable to produce it and the resulting investigation showed he had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. Chilliwack RCMP had had the warrant issued earlier in 2009 for failing to comply with court ordered conditions. The thirty seven year old male was escorted to Vancouver jail.

Central Valley Greenway - TransLink recently celebrated the opening of the Central Valley Greenway, a 28km long bike trail from Vancouver to New Westminster. Two Transit Police Officers on bikes participated in the event and increased awareness of the bike deployment capacity of the Transit Police.

Incidents – SkyTrain

1. Outstanding Warrants – While conducting a fare check at King George SkyTrain Station, Transit Police Officers checked a female who was found in possession of property she admitted was taken from the store in the Westbrook Mall. A records check revealed four outstanding Unendorsed Warrants held by Surrey RCMP (two for Theft Under and two for Breach). The female was arrested on the warrants and transported to the Surrey RCMP cells. [GV2009-10183]
2. Emergency Assistance – A male collapsed on the train and was removed by SkyTrain Attendants (STAs) at Metrotown. Transit Police attended and assisted the STAs while waiting for Emergency Health Services. The male had stopped breathing and had no pulse. EHS revived him and transported him to Burnaby General Hospital. Transit Police attended to the hospital, and then contacted the male's aunt and transported her to the hospital. [GV2009-06576]
3. Theft by Youth – Transit Police received a report of two youths who stole a woman's wallet while she was on the train. The incident was witnessed by a passenger who had youths

return the wallet. Transit Police Officers attended at the Surrey Central SkyTrain Station and both suspects were arrested – one at the Station and the other nearby the Station. One youth had a warrant out of Vancouver Police and was taken to cells. Both youth were given Undertakings (UTA) and Promise To Appear (PTA) for Theft Under. The parents of the youth were advised and given copies of PTA/UTA. [GV2009-0145]

4. Possession of Weapons – Transit Police submitted a Report to Crown Counsel seeking charges of Possession of Weapons Dangerous to Public Peace on two young offenders, arising out of information from Vancouver Police of 50 teens fighting at Brock Park near Nanaimo SkyTrain Station. Two youth were subsequently stopped and found to have two billiard balls secreted in a pair of socks, as well as a lock blade knife. The youth turned over to Guardian. [GV2009-07444]
5. Mental Health Incident – At Broadway SkyTrain Station, a male walked by the SkyTrain Attendant and stated, “You won't see me any longer”. He then entered the guideway and lay down with his feet towards the incoming train. The Pie-Strips cut the power to the train and it automatically applied its emergency brakes. The male was pushed approximately two feet by the train as it came to a complete stop. There were no physical injuries sustained by the male. The male was arrested by Transit Police under the Mental Health Act and transported to Vancouver General Hospital, where he was admitted and assisted by medical staff. [GV2009-08917]
6. Bomb Call – Transit Police received a call advising that the Burnaby RCMP were dealing with a pipe bomb in the area of Metrotown Station. Transit Police offered assistance to the RCMP. They requested help with pedestrian and vehicle control, as well as possible assistance in evacuating persons from adjacent buildings. Two Transit Police Sergeants attended to the Command Centre. The RCMP Explosive Device Unit (EDU) was on scene and had confirmed that the device was a real pipe bomb and that it would have to be removed and detonated in the park nearby. The EDU required that all SkyTrains stop travelling on the overhead rails when they were dealing with the bomb. Accordingly, this requirement was conveyed by Transit Police to the SkyTrain control center. Transit Police dispatched 19 police officers to the area to assist the RCMP. After the bomb was detonated, the EDU followed their procedure of ensuring that the bomb area was safe, before allowing trains, pedestrians and vehicles into the area. SkyTrains were stopped for over one hour. During this hold on the trains, passengers were gathering at the various stations along the Expo Line and there was a need for crowd control. Transit Police dispatched the last four available Transit Police Officers to Burrard and Granville Stations to assist with crowd control, as well as requesting assistance from Vancouver Police at the Stadium, Broadway and Waterfront SkyTrain Stations. Six Vancouver Police officers assisted. Transit Police held a de-briefing session and suggestions for future incident response were forwarded to the Inspector Operations. [GV2009-8952]
7. Prolific Offender – A prolific offender was released from custody on September 4th after 3 months incarceration. This male offender was noted for “stuffing” Ticket Vending Machines (TVMs) at Stadium and Waterfront Stations. No TVM machines were stuffed while the offender was serving his sentence. Members of the Transit Police Crime Reduction Unit (CRU) were alerted to an ongoing spree of (TVM) “stuffings” that had been occurring since September 5th and surveillance was set up by CRU. This offender was observed repeatedly entering and exiting the TVM area of Stadium SkyTrain Station on September 9th, and then observed actively tampering with a TVM – wire in hand. He was arrested by Transit Police for Breach Probation, Possession of Break and Enter Instruments (coin operated device),

Mischief, and Attempt Theft. He appeared in court on September 11th, and was remanded until his next court appearance on September 23rd. [GV2009-6911 and GV2009-10231]

8. Voyeurism – Transit Police attended to Metrotown after receiving a report that Coast Mountain Bus Company Security had detained a male alleged to have taken photos up a female passenger's skirt. Transit Police took the suspect into custody and a phone seized for forensic examination. The suspect was released at scene on a Promise To Appear, pending investigation. [GV2009-10264]

Incidents - Canada Line

9. 1st Arrest on Canada Line – On August 19th, 2009, Transit Police made its first arrest at the Broadway City Hall Station of the new Canada Transit Police were conducting a routine check of a male and the investigation showed he was wanted on a Canada Wide Warrant for two counts of fraud. The alleged offences took place in 1996 in Vancouver when charges were laid. The warrant was issued out of the Vancouver Provincial Courts. The forty-six year old male was arrested and transported to Vancouver City Jail. [GV2009-9258]
10. False Documents - On September 6th, 2009, the Transit Police checked a female at the Olympic Village Station who did not have a valid fare and who refused to provide her correct identity. The female was in possession of various falsified documents, as well as a falsified passport. A subsequent investigation revealed that the female had been missing from a Quebec mental health facility since December 2007. Since that time, the female had been travelling around the world using fake identification and obtaining money by forging cheques. The female is currently in custody, awaiting her next court appearance on October 9th, 2009. [GV2009-10096]
11. Immigration Warrant - On September 15th, 2009, the Transit Police checked a male for a fare at Bridgeport Station. He failed to show proof of payment. A subsequent CPIC query revealed that the male had an Immigration Warrant issued for his arrest – with a Canada-wide enforcement radius. The male was arrested by Transit Police and held for Immigration. [GV2009-10546].

Canada Line Policing Commenced

Transit Police Officers being deployed to the Canada Line are enthusiastic about their new duties and developing good working relationship with the Canada Line Attendants and operational personnel as well as business partners along the route. Extensive meetings and planning continue to take place with Richmond RCMP and Vancouver Police to ensure seamless policing to the Canada Line and surrounding neighbourhoods. Officers have been taking time to connect with Canada Line riders to enhance their feeling of personal safety on the Canada Line and their awareness of the Transit Police. The Transit Police complement of 1 Sergeant and 3 Constables to the Station Targeted Area Response (STAR) Team is now in place. During the first month of Canada Line operations (up to September 13th, 2009), Transit Police executed 12 warrants, made 42 on-view arrests, recorded 44 street checks and filed 235 General Occurrence Reports.

Statistics

The total Transit Police incidents for the January 1 – August, 2009 period is 30,223 (see Tables 1 and 2). As Transit Police is a supplementary police agency, these incident statistics must be considered in conjunction with jurisdictional police statistics in order to have an accurate reflection of crime rates in any given jurisdiction.

The number of incidents categorized as “Crimes Against the Person” is down 7%, when compared to January to August 2008. Crimes Against the Person are generally violent offences, including Sexual Assault, Common Assault, and Robbery. The number of Crimes Against Property has also fallen, as has the number of Other Criminal Code Violations.

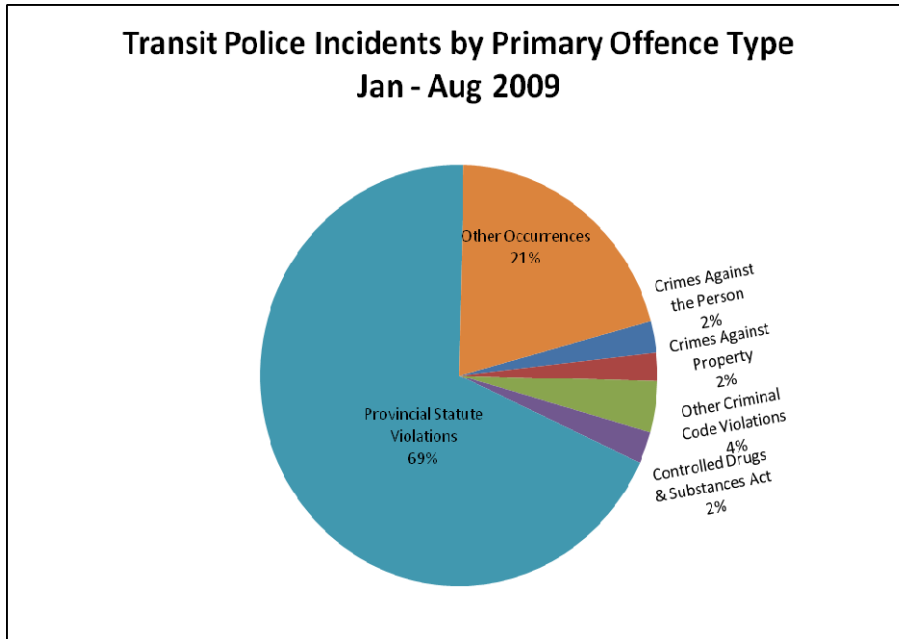
The number of Provincial Statute Violations has increased 28%, which is attributable to the success of High Visibility Initiatives being done at the transit stations. The year-to-date incidents increased by 23% compared to the same period in 2008. This is partly due to the ramp-up of additional Transit Police Officers for policing of the new Canada Line system which resulted in increased officers conducting enforcement. (Authorized police officer strength in 2008 was 154 and 169 in 2009.)

Table 1

Transit Police Incidents by Primary Offence Type	Jan - Aug 2009	Jan - Aug 2008	% Change
Crimes Against the Person	723	778	-7%
Crimes Against Property	665	670	-1%
Other Criminal Code Violations	1,175	1,237	-5%
Controlled Drugs & Substances Act	734	713	3%
Other Federal Statute Violations	55	44	25%
Provincial Statute Violations	20,669	16,137	28%
Other Occurrences	6,163	5,051	22%
Traffic Violations	39	31	26%
Total Incidents Reported*	30,223	24,661	23%
<i>*Includes Assist Files</i>	<i>1,329</i>	<i>1,239</i>	
<i>Calculations based on Actual, rather than Reported, occurrences. Reported incidents determined to be unfounded are not included.</i>			

Note: These are Transit Police activity statistic only and where a particular category may go up or down over time, it may reflect that the jurisdictional police were taking the calls.

Table 2



The number of Street Checks conducted by Transit Police has increased by 75% in January to August 2009 when compared to the same period last year. This can, in part, be attributed to a commitment on the part of the Transit Police to be more visible and thus to increase the number of person checks. The total number of arrests (including warrant arrests) has increased by 13% when compared to the same period last year, with this being attributable to increased “On View” arrests by Transit Police.

Table 3

Other Transit Police Indicators			
Indicators	2009 YTD (Jan to Aug)	2008 (Jan to Aug)	% Change
Street Checks	1033	591	75%
On View Arrests*	2109	1819	16%
Warrants Executed	396	399	-1%
Total Arrests	2505	2218	13%
Breaches	294	300	-2%

*On-View Arrests - Any arrest not involving execution of a warrant.

Tables 4, 5 and 6 outline the volume of incidents by jurisdiction, and the ratio of incidents per light rapid rail station (Canada Line and SkyTrain). August 17th, 2009 marked the opening of the Canada Line. Currently, Richmond accounts for less than 1% of Transit Police incidents. Richmond has seven Canada Line Stations. As public use of the Canada Line increases in September and as comprehensive policing of the system is implemented, there will be increased calls for service and incident reporting in future months. Forty-nine Transit Police Officers (includes Station Targeted Area Response) are now deployed to Canada Line policing.

Table 4

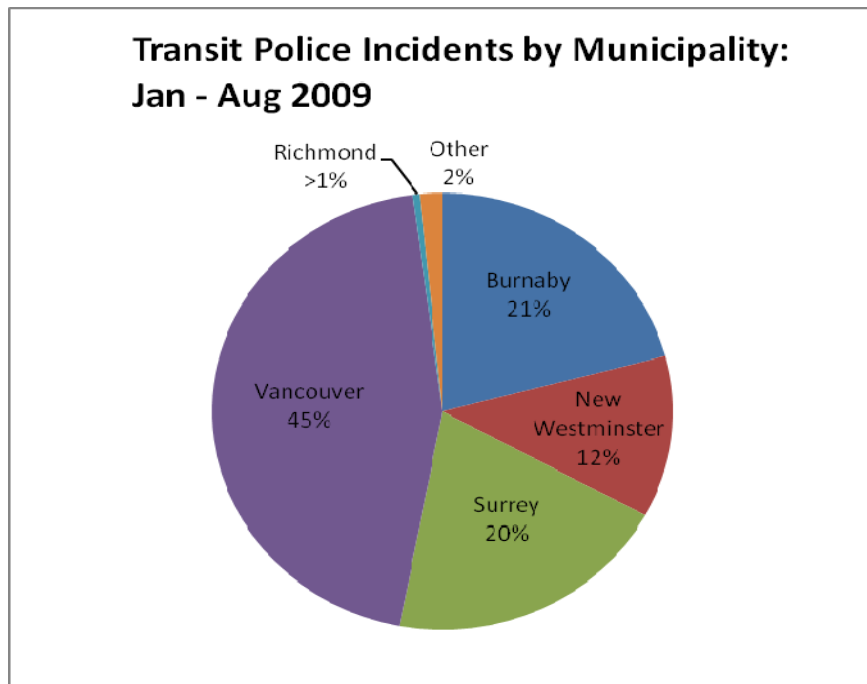


Table 5

Transit Police Incidents by Municipality Jan - August 2009	
Agassiz	2
Burnaby	6,321
Chilliwack	2
Coquitlam	79
Delta	19
Langley	5
Maple Ridge	29
Mission	3
New Westminster	3,614
North Vancouver	253
Pitt Meadows	7
Port Coquitlam	30
Port Moody	28
Richmond	146
Surrey	6,078
UBC	5
Vancouver	13,590
West Vancouver	11
White Rock	1
Total	30,223

Table 6

Municipality	Total Incidents	SkyTrain & Canada Line Stations	Ratio
Burnaby	6,321	11	22% of Stations and 21% of Incidents
New Westminster	3,614	5	10% of Stations and 12% of Incidents
Surrey	6,078	4	8% of Stations and 20% of Incidents
Vancouver	13,590	22	45% of Stations and 45% of Incidents
Richmond	146	7	15% of Stations and >1% of Incidents
Other	474	0	0% of Stations and 2% of Incidents
Total	30,223	49	

PART B: BUILDING CAPACITY

Pandemic Planning

Transit Police has been preparing for the Fall pandemic influenza wave. A planning committee was established and preliminary plan prepared. This plan includes organizational protocols and measures to be taken to respond to and to help mitigate the effects of pandemic influenza or similar health emergency. Personal Protective Equipment was ordered and on site -- ready for issue. Previously Transit Police issued to personnel Isagel wipes and MyClyns. Ramp up of the plan's implementation is now underway.

First Aid Training

In 2009, Chief Officer Clapham directed that First Aid training be mandatory for all Transit Police Officers. The one day training courses commence in September 2009 and delivered by St. John Ambulance. Training for civilian staff is encouraged, but optional. The subject of this training course is Emergency First Aid, Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED). It is equivalent to a Standard level First Aid, CPR-C and AED course offered to the general public by St. John Ambulance. The objective of this course is to familiarize Transit Police Officers with the Priority Action Approach of dealing with critical incidents in the field, where they may be called upon to provide immediate and possibly life saving first aid to persons ill or injured. Personnel will also learn the skills needed to successfully provide that care.

This training has been specifically designed by St John Ambulance to address the needs of Transit Police and to address the situations that Transit Police Officers face in their daily duties. This course will provide two separate certifications: (1) Emergency First Aid & CPR-C (including Adult, Child & Infant CPR); and (2) AED. Both certifications will be valid for a period of 3 years.

Black & White Police Vehicles

With the Police Board's approval, "black & white" scheme was adopted for phasing into the Transit Police fleet. The roll-out of the black & white vehicles has commenced with two Crown Victoria police cars and one prisoner wagon, and the other prisoner wagon to come before year-end. Transit Police now joins police departments in New Westminster, Port Moody, West Vancouver, Central Saanich, and Abbotsford, with incorporation of black & white vehicles.



Richmond Reporting Office/Bridgeport Station

On September 20, 2009, Transit Police Officers assigned to the Canada Line squads began reporting out of the new police office at 2159 Great Canadian Way (Bridgeport Station). During the balance of September the office equipment, telephones and computers will be installed, and administrative processes will continue to be developed to enable effective police operations from that facility.

SAFELY LINKING COMMUNITIES

