



Kamloops' North Shore Transit Exchange Celebrates Official Grand Opening

August 30, 2010

Kamloops, British Columbia – The North Shore Transit Exchange, located on Sydney Avenue near the North Hills Shopping Centre, celebrated its Grand Opening today. Transit operations began on August 11, 2010, and after several weeks of successful use, today marks its official public unveiling.

Attending the official opening were Cathy McLeod, MP for Kamloops-Thompson-Cariboo, Terry Lake, MLA for Kamloops-North Thompson, Peter Milobar, Mayor of Kamloops, Manuel Achadinha, President of BC Transit, and Councillor Kevin Flynn, Union of BC Municipalities Executive Member.

"The Government of Canada is committed to improving public transportation and partnering on projects that make public transit more efficient and reliable," said MP McLeod, on behalf of Canada's Transport and Infrastructure Minister, Chuck Strahl. "The opening of the North Shore Transit Exchange will provide residents with healthier, more accessible transportation options while supporting environmental sustainability."

The construction of the exchange was a result of studies completed in 2007 which identified the need for a North Shore transit exchange. The City of Kamloops received grants of \$906,664 through the Public Transit Infrastructure Program and \$305,597 through the federal Gas Tax Fund. In 2008, MMM Group Ltd was hired to complete the design, construction began in March 2010 by Con-Ex Civil Contractors Ltd, and operations commenced on August 11, 2010.

"As former Mayor and member of the BC Transit Board, I know how important it is to residents to have safe and reliable transit service," said Dr. Lake. "The city has been pro-active in identifying transit efficiencies, and maximizing the supports available through funding bodies to make the transit exchange a reality."

"The new exchange supports the North Shore as an economic and social hub," said Mayor Milobar. "This is an important step forward in promoting Kamloops as a green and eco-friendly community by encouraging transit as an alternative form of transportation."

"This facility will support the growing needs of our customers in Kamloops, encourage greater transit use and promote sustainable travel options," said Mr. Achadinha.

The establishment of a transit exchange near the North Hills Shopping Centre helps support the vision of the area as the core of activity on the North Shore. The new exchange provides improved amenities for transit customers and offers an attractive focal point to the North Shore business area. Routes 1-Tranquille, 3-Westside, 10-North Shore TRU Express, 13-Yellowhead and 14-Batchelor are now using the new North Shore Transit Exchange. While traffic is not permitted in the transit exchange area, all driveways to the shopping centre and Sydney Plaza are open to the public.

The Government of Canada's Gas Tax Fund is a tripartite agreement between Canada, British Columbia and UBCM delivering infrastructure funding to local governments for capital projects that lead to cleaner air, cleaner water or reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Through the Public

North Shore Transit Exchange Grand Opening

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Event: North Shore Transit Exchange Grand Opening
Location: North Shore Transit Exchange
Date: Monday, August 30, 2010
Time: 2:30 pm – 3:00 pm

REQUESTED INVOLVEMENT FROM:

Mayor Peter Milobar –Co - Emcee and speaker
Manuel Achadinha, President and CEO of BC Transit– Co-Emcee and speaker
MLA Dr. Terry Lake - Speaker
MP Cathy McLeod – Speaker
Councillor Kevin Flynn, UBCM - Speaker

HEADLINE:

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EVENT AGENDA:

- **2:25 pm - Speakers meet to go over agenda/speeches (5 min)**
- **2:30 pm - Mayor Peter Milobar (3 min)**
 - Welcomes speakers and guests
 - Acknowledges MLA Terry Lake, June Phillips from Kevin Krueger's office, MP Cathy McLeod, Councillor Kevin Flynn, UBCM and City Council members
 - Introduces BC Transit President Manuel Achadinha
- **2:33 pm – Manuel Achadinha (3 min)**
 - Gives a short speech
- **2:38 pm - Mayor Peter Milobar (1 min)**
 - Introduces Terry Lake
- **2:39 pm – MLA Dr. Terry Lake (3 min)**
 - Gives short speech
- **2:42 pm - Mayor Peter Milobar (1 min)**
 - Introduces Cathy McLeod
- **2:43 pm – MP Cathy McLeod (3 min)**
 - Gives short speech
- **2:46 pm - Mayor Peter Milobar (1 min)**
 - Introduces Councillor Kevin Flynn, UBCM

- **2:47 pm – Councillor Kevin Flynn (3 min)**
 - Gives short speech
- **2:50 pm - Mayor Peter Milobar/Manuel Achadinha (1 min)**
 - Closing comments
 - Peter invites Manuel Achadinha to help him cut the ribbon – photo opportunity
- **2:51 pm - Media Interviews**
- **3:00 pm – Dignitaries Photo Op**
 - Photo opportunity on bus
- **3:05 pm – Dignitaries Photo Op**
 - Cut the cake – photo opportunity

EVENT LOGISTICS CONTACT:

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BACKGROUND:

Studies completed in 2007 identified the need for a North Shore Transit Exchange. The City of Kamloops received funding through the Provincial Public Transit Infrastructure Program and the Government of Canada's Gas Tax Fund, based on transit ridership and population. In 2008, MMM Group Ltd was hired to complete the design, and construction began in March 2010.

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The Government of Canada's Gas Tax Fund is a tripartite agreement between Canada, British Columbia and UBCM delivering infrastructure funding to local governments for capital projects that lead to cleaner air, cleaner water or reduced greenhouse gas emissions. UBCM administers the Gas Tax Fund in B.C. in collaboration with Canada and British Columbia.

Through the Public Transit Infrastructure Program (PTIP), the Government of BC is providing \$52.5 million for public transit systems in BC. The PTIP is administered by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.

VISUAL OPTIONS:

- Ribbon cutting by dignitaries
- Cake cutting
- Dignitaries photo op on bus

EVENT SETUP:

Sound system (microphone and speakers) to be provided and set up by Lee's Music
Podium and table to be provided by Parks & Rec

Transit Infrastructure Program (PTIP), the Government of British Columbia is providing \$52.5 million for public transit systems in BC. Both programs are administered by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.

“As communities like Kamloops expand public transit facilities to better service the public, the support of the federal and provincial governments is vital,” said Mr. Flynn. “UBCM is very appreciative of the funding provided by both levels of government for the North Shore Transit Exchange.”

For further information on the Government of Canada’s infrastructure investments in British Columbia, visit www.creatingjobs.gc.ca. To learn more about Canada’s Economic Action Plan, visit www.actionplan.gc.ca.

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For more information:

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