

CITY OF BURNABY

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
(TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT DIVISION)

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

RE: YIELD TO BUS LEGISLATION

RECOMMENDATION:

1. *THAT* Council receive the *attached* report for information.

REPORT

The Traffic and Transportation Committee (Transportation and Transit Division), at its meeting held on 1999 May 06, received and adopted the *attached* report to advise of the new Transit Priority Initiative.

Respectfully submitted,

MEMBERS:
Lyle Boivin
Raymond Lupien
Tim Roxburgh
Leanne Tatangelo

Councillor N. Volkow
Chair

Councillor J. Young
Vice Chair

Councillor D. Evans
Member

:COPY - CITY MANAGER
- DIRECTOR ENGINEERING
- DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING

TO: CHAIR & MEMBERS
TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
(Transportation and Transit Division)

1999 May 6

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

Our File: 08.210

SUBJECT: YIELD TO BUS LEGISLATION

PURPOSE: To advise the Traffic and Transportation Committee on this new Transit Priority Initiative

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** this report be received for the information of the Traffic and Transportation Committee.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

At the last meeting of the TransLink's Transit Advisory Committee the Yield to Bus Legislation was presented as an information item.

This legislation was officially unveiled on 1999 April 19 with the introduction of the communications campaign and it went into effect on 1999 May 3.

2.0 YIELD TO BUS LEGISLATION

2.1 Background

This new legislation changes the Motor Vehicle Act and Regulations to give transit buses priority when pulling away from a bus stop on roads with speeds of 60 km/hr or less. This will require other drivers to yield right of way to a transit bus when it is signalling its intentions to do. The legislation also requires the bus drivers to only re-enter traffic when it is safe to do so.

This province-wide initiative will be in effect not only in areas in the Lower Mainland under the authority of TransLink, but in BC Transit service areas in Victoria and twenty four other B.C. municipalities.

A decal will be placed on the back of buses to notify and remind drivers to yield to buses (see *Figure 1 attached*).

2.2 Other Jurisdictions

Similar laws are already in place in Quebec, Oregon and Washington, and are common in Europe, Australia and Japan.

2.3 Benefits

The Yield-to-Bus initiative will enhance bus operators' ability to deliver dependable and effective service in areas where other bus priority measures are not in place, particularly in urban areas where traffic congestion is severe and negatively impacts transit travel times.

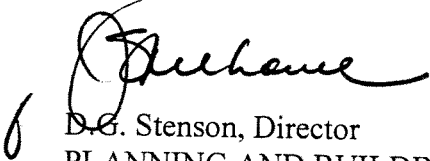
2.4 Public Awareness Campaign

Components of the awareness campaign include new Yield-to-Bus decals and signage on the rear of all buses, advertisements on radio and in local papers, and travel and motoring publications. Information will also be provided to operators of fleet vehicles, and incorporated into driver educational material and publications.

The Yield-to-Bus initiative is intended as an extension of the voluntary "Thanks for the Brake" campaign, and aims to remind other drivers to yield to buses merging into traffic.

3.0 CONCLUSION

This new legislation is a very cost effective way to increase the priority transit can be provided along all transit routes throughout Burnaby. This measure will provide a benefit to the reliability and efficiency of transit bus service. Transit is an important element of the transportation system which increases the livability and sustainability of the community. This measure is also consistent with the objectives of Burnaby's Transportation Plan and the Official Community Plan and should be supported by the City.


D.G. Stenson, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

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cc: City Manager
Director of Engineering

Thanks for the Brake

Please Yield to Buses

- It's now the Law

Here's the question: what would you rather have in front of you on the road, 40 cars or one bus? Think about it. That's how many vehicles one full transit bus replaces when it's on the road. And isn't it better for you to let one bus move a bunch of people, rather than many, many cars move only one person each? In fact, the more you think about it, the more it makes sense to keep the buses moving. That's why effective **May 3, 1999**, a new law will come into effect to help keep the buses and traffic moving more efficiently.



WHAT is the new YIELD legislation about?

The new legislation is an amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act and comes into effect on May 3, 1999. This new legislation makes it mandatory for vehicles to yield the right-of-way to public transit buses displaying a YIELD decal re-entering the flow of traffic from the curb lane, bus stop or bus bay, throughout British Columbia. However, transit operators are still responsible for ensuring that it is safe to re-enter the traffic flow before they do so.

WHERE does the new law apply?

The new law is in effect throughout B.C. It applies to all public transit buses displaying a YIELD decal, re-entering the flow of traffic from the curb lane, bus stop or bus bay, on roads where the speed limit is 60 km/h or lower. All transit buses outside Greater Vancouver (but including West Vancouver), will also employ a flashing YIELD sign in the rear window.

WHY has the new law been put into effect?

With increasing traffic congestion on roadways in urban centres throughout the province, the efficiency and reliability of public transit buses has been negatively impacted. The legislation will help to improve bus travel times and make transit a more competitive transportation option.

HOW do I know where I am to stop?

There is no defined position, location or point at which drivers must yield to buses. Drivers are expected to yield when it is safe to do so, taking into account factors such as road conditions, traffic conditions, vehicle speed and prior signalling of the intent to re-enter traffic flow by the transit operator. But remember, transit operators are required to ensure that it is safe to re-enter the flow of traffic, before doing so.

WHO has commissioned the new law?

The new legislation has been promoted by TransLink and BC Transit and will be enacted by the Province of B.C., with support from several agencies including ICBC, the Ministry of the Attorney General, the Ministry of Transportation and Highways and BCAA.

MOST bus stops are on the far side of an intersection. What happens if the light changes when I am yielding, leaving me stuck in the middle of the intersection?

Drivers are expected to yield, only if it is safe to do so. If a driver is proceeding through an intersection and it appears unsafe to yield to a bus leaving the curb lane, the driver is not obligated to do so. The transit operator must wait until the driver yields to a bus before re-entering traffic.

WHICH buses must I yield to?

Drivers must yield to all public transit buses throughout the Province (BC Transit and TransLink) displaying a YIELD decal.

ARE there certain times of day that the law applies?

The law is in effect at all times.

WHAT is the penalty for disobeying the law?

The penalty is \$75 for both drivers and transit operators.

For more information within Greater Vancouver, please contact:

TransLink
13401 - 108th Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
V3T 5T4
521-0400
www.translink.bc.ca

For more information elsewhere in the province, please contact:

BC Transit
520 Gorge Road East
P.O. Box 610
Victoria, B.C. V8W 2P3
382-6161
www.transitbc.com

Figure 1