

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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NEW FAREBOXES INSTALLED TO IMPROVE SECURITY AND REDUCE DISPUTES ON NANAIMO BUSES

NANAIMO, B.C. – BC Transit recently completed the installation of new electronic fareboxes on all buses in Nanaimo’s regional transit system. Starting September 1, monthly bus passholders will be asked to swipe their pass at the farebox when boarding a bus. The fareboxes will collect ridership data, improve fare security and reduce fare disputes.

“These new fareboxes are easy to use for riders and more efficient for drivers,” said Parksville-Qualicum MLA Ron Cantelon. “As well, the ability for BC Transit to gather comprehensive information about where people get on the bus is important for future route planning.”

“BC Transit is committed to exploring innovative ways that help build safer, more effective, and more efficient transit systems,” said Manuel Achadinha, President and CEO of BC Transit.

“We are moving forward with major expansions to the Nanaimo Regional Transit System, including a plan to double bus service by 2018, and the new fare box data collection system is essential for helping guide those plans.” said Larry McNabb, Chair of the Regional Transit Select Committee. “BC Transit is the RDN’s major transit funding partner, and I want to thank them for working with us to install the fareboxes on all of our buses.”

Fare products will transition to the new farebox technology over the next six months.

Today, customers present their bus pass or ticket to the bus driver, or put change in the farebox.

Now, customers will insert tickets or change into the farebox for validation. Monthly bus passes for the rest of the summer will remain unchanged; customers will continue to show their valid bus pass to the bus driver.



Starting September 1, customers will swipe monthly bus passes at the fareboxes. New, encoded monthly bus passes will be on sale for the month of September, 2010.

By January 2011, BC Bus Passes and ProPasses will receive new, encoded passes.

The new machines will record data, such as product type, time swiped, and bus route, which can be used to help determine future changes or improvements for the system.

The Nanaimo Regional Transit System is one of 11 communities to receive the new fareboxes. The other BC Transit systems are Cowichan Valley, Kamloops, Kelowna, Vernon, Penticton, Prince George, Central Fraser Valley, Whistler and Chilliwack. The Victoria Regional Transit System already uses a similar product. BC Transit's long-range vision is to implement similar technology to its entire provincial fleet.

The electronic fareboxes were purchased from GFI Genfare, a leading maker of bus fare collection systems in North America.

For routes, schedules and general inquiries, please call the Nanaimo Regional Transit System at (250) 390-4531 for Nanaimo and (250) 954-1001 for Parksville and Qualicum, or visit www.bctransit.com.