

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Abbotsford Compressed Natural Gas Transit Operations and Maintenance facility

#### Why is the new Operations and Maintenance facility needed?

The existing facility is located at 1225 Riverside Road, Abbotsford. The site is constrained by limited space for bus storage and inadequate maintenance bays. It does not have compressed natural gas fueling capability, and buses must be washed off-site as it does not have an automated bus wash facility. From 2005 to 2010, ridership has grown by nearly 1 million passengers. With the existing facility at capacity, there has been limited ability to expand transit service in the Central Fraser Valley Transit System. The [Central Fraser Valley Future Transit Plan](#) forecasts a significant increase in transit ridership which will require a new operations and maintenance facility to accommodate growth of up to 150 buses.



*Figure 1: Existing Facility 1225 Riverside Road*

#### What will occur at the transit maintenance and operations facility?

The facility will accommodate a mix of conventional transit buses, community buses, and handyDART buses. The site will initially have 64 buses, and is expected to expand to 150 buses in the next 15 to 20 years based on projected system growth. Service operation, customer service and operator training for the Central Fraser Valley Transit service will be controlled from here. These buses will also be inspected, maintained, washed and fueled at this facility.

#### How will the facility improve my transit service?

With the new facility and expanded fleet size, BC Transit will be able to implement some of the short to medium term service improvements identified in the [Central Fraser Valley Future Transit Plan](#). Due to the growth constraints at the existing facility it isn't possible to add buses to the fleet to meet the growing demand. Being able to add buses to the fleet will allow us to improve efficiency and reliability, and increase service levels on frequent transit network corridors. In the new location, BC Transit will be better able to improve service for Abbotsford and Mission transit users by locating closer to local routes and by reducing costs for fuel and labour.

## Will construction interrupt access to Pratt Road or Gladys Avenue?

No. BC Transit will ensure that the construction and operation of the facility will not impede public access through Gladys Avenue or Pratt Road. We understand that neighbouring residential, commercial and industrial neighbours need to access their properties.

We intend to build the new facility at the intersection of Gladys Avenue and Pratt Road between 2018 and 2019. Primary construction access will be from Gladys Avenue, outside any residential areas. Safety is our top priority, and best practices will be followed during the movement of material and construction and will comply with all regulatory requirements. We want to be good neighbors, and if you have questions or comments please contact 1-250-995-5696 or [CFVproject@bctransit.com](mailto:CFVproject@bctransit.com).

## Who is funding the project?

The funding for the project is part of the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund. The Federal Government is providing \$11.5 million and the Province of BC is providing \$10.2 million towards the construction portion of the project. The Province of British Columbia is providing an additional funding contribution of \$3.9 million to the project for land acquisition and the local governments are responsible for any remaining costs.

## Why does the station need to be in this location?

The size and location of the Gladys road property meets BC Transit's criteria. As noted, the new site can accommodate 150 buses, CNG fueling and automated wash facilities all of which increase efficiency and generate substantial cost savings as compared to the existing site. The central location reduces deadheading costs (buses traveling to and from the facility to the start and end of their routes with no passengers) which also saves significant costs and time.



## What other locations did you examine?

City of Abbotsford Staff and BC Transit evaluated all available lots in the area to identify a viable location for the new facility. The transit facility has been designed for the storage and maintenance of approximately 100 buses (with the ability to add future capacity for a total of 150 to meet future transit growth). The design includes a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling station, an automated bus wash, seven bus maintenance bays and administrative offices. CNG buses are quieter and cleaner burning than diesel buses and create additional operational cost savings.

Site Considerations included:

- Size and shape that meets the functional requirements
- Cost at project budget
- Availability of land, constructability and zoning
- Property size to accommodate long-term growth
- Central location for transit services at reduced operating cost

BC Transit concluded that the Gladys Avenue property is the only location which meets the requirements for this facility.

## Will the movement of up to 150 buses impact levels of service on Pratt Rd. or Gladys Avenue?

BC Transit serves the Central Fraser Valley with 64 buses at present, and over the next 15 to 25 years this will gradually rise to 150 buses. Relative to the volume of background traffic, the daily movement of up to 150 buses to and from the site is marginal. Further, the expansion of transit service ultimately reduces traffic volumes through mode shifts from private vehicles to public transport. BC Transit has commissioned a traffic impact study to determine what if any road design changes are required to maintain acceptable levels of service for Pratt Road and Gladys Avenue. A majority of buses will already be on the road during peak commute times as they will be providing service in Abbotsford and Mission.



## What measures are being taken to ensure pedestrian / cyclist safety?

Safety is the top priority for BC Transit. As part of the traffic impact analysis, we will be working with the city to identify solutions to support cyclists and pedestrians in this area remains safe.

**What hours will the facility operate within?**

As part of the site planning we are working to limit noise or movement impact to the communities. The peak movement of buses in and out of the facility is at the start of the day at approximately 6 a.m., with buses returning at approximately 9 a.m., then leaving the facility at approximately 3 p.m. and returning at approximately 6 p.m. There is activity on site for a majority of the day as buses are washed, refueled, and maintained while off service, however the noise from these activities is minimal. We strive to be good neighbours, and will work hard to limit unnecessary and excessive noise.

**What arrangements will be made for security / monitoring?**

Security is an important part of the facility design, which includes ensuring our buses and equipment are secure. We are taking security seriously throughout the project and more so once the facility opens.