

Double Decker 20th Anniversary – FAQ

When did double decker buses start operating in Victoria?

The first double decker buses went into service on August 1, 2000. These were the first double decker buses to be used for public transit in North America. They have changed the face of transit in the Victoria Regional Transit System, and have become a defining part of the region.

Why did BC Transit choose double deckers and not articulated buses like the ones used by TransLink in Vancouver?

Articulated buses are much longer, and would not have functioned well on some of the shorter blocks in downtown Victoria. Double decker buses provided the increased capacity BC Transit was looking for while not taking up as much space on busy city streets.

How many double deckers were there to start? How many are there now?

Originally 10 double deckers entered service in 2000. There are currently 67 of these high capacity buses in service providing safe and efficient service for passengers across the region.

How much money did the original double deckers cost?

The first double deckers each cost approximately \$590,000. Because of their higher carrying capacity, fewer overload buses would be required than with standard buses, making them more cost effective for BC Transit.

Who manufactured the original double deckers? Were they made in Canada?

These buses were manufactured in the UK by a company called Dennis Specialist Vehicles, now known as Alexander Dennis Limited. At the time, they had long been manufacturing double decker buses, selling more than 1,000 to Hong Kong alone. They were the only company at the time manufacturing the type of low floor double deckers BC Transit required for service in the Victoria Regional Transit System.

When are the first 10 buses retiring?

The original double deckers, 9001 through 9010, will be leaving service in early 2021 and replaced by new high capacity buses. The new buses are also being manufactured by Alexander Denis Limited.

What will happen to the retiring buses?

One of the double deckers, 9001, is being transferred back to Alexander Dennis and will eventually end up in a transit museum in the United States. The remaining deckers will be dismantled, with as much of the material recycled as possible.

How many kilometres do the retiring buses have on them?

Because they have been in service for 20 years, these 10 deckers have combined to log more than 11 million kilometres. The bus with the most kilometres is 9004, which has logged 1,232,704 km. That is a testament not only to the construction, but to the ongoing excellence of the Fleet Maintenance team at BC Transit.

When are the new buses coming to Victoria?

The first new double decker is expected to arrive in Victoria in early 2020. That will provide our Fleet team with time to make any necessary modifications and ensure the first bus and the following deckers are ready for service in the Victoria Regional Transit System. We are expecting the first new double decker to enter service in early 2021.

What will the new double deckers have that the older ones don't?

The new buses will include several new features, including passenger USB ports and a wider staircase. BC Transit will be unveiling more information about these great new additions to the Victoria fleet in the coming weeks.

Will the new buses meet your Covid-19 protocols?

Yes. All new buses come equipped with full driver doors designed to protect the health and safety of drivers and passengers. They will also have the necessary signage and on-board decals to remind customers of the need to wear face coverings and maintain physical distance where possible.