

RDN Transit Service Expansion and Fall Schedule Changes

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) is pleased to share further details about the upcoming RDN Transit service hours expansion and fall schedule.

Service Hours Expansion

As part of an expansion to transit service in the RDN, 1,000 hours of service has been added. These hours will be evenly split across two routes, the 70 Nanaimo-Cowichan Express (NCX) and the 99 Deep Bay route, which goes from Deep Bay north of Bowser to Qualicum Beach. Half of those additional hours will extend Friday and Saturday evening services on the NCX. The other 500 hours enable the Deep Bay route to run seven days a week and connect with Comox Valley Regional Transit's Route 10 to Downtown Courtenay at Chrome Point six days a week.

An additional 8,700 service hours will be added to several routes in January including routes 50, 9 and 11-Lantzville. These hours will help make transit trips to school, work and other destinations more convenient for transit customers. More information on impacts to service will be shared later in the year.

In addition to service hours expansion, major and minor adjustments have been made to all routes to ensure they reflect the current conditions. Recovery time adjustments were made to help routes stay on-time so transit customers can make their connections and get to their desired destination as per the transit schedule.

The major route adjustments are guided by the RDN's Transit Redevelopment Strategy (TRS) and made possible by an increase in RDN and provincial funding. The TRS is a comprehensive priority plan for improving the RDN's conventional transit services in partnership with BC Transit over a five-year period. The TRS outlines how transit can be routed and service and infrastructure added to better connect residents across the region. The RDN is currently working on year two of the TRS.

Fall Schedule and Major Route Changes

Seasonal service on select routes that include stops at District and private schools and Vancouver Island University will resume on September 3, 2024. Trips servicing post-secondary students are in effect until April 2025 and routes servicing primary and secondary schools are in service until June 2025.

To help transit customers adjust to the route changes, the RDN is rolling out the changes in stages over the next few months. Notable route changes include:

- Route 50 will no longer be interlined with Route 7 Cinnabar/Downtown at all times of the day due to plans to transition the 50 into a rapid line in January 2025.

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- More Route 20 Hammond Bay/Dover Bay trips will go through the Country Club Exchange, with reduced connections at Brooks Landing to the Route 1 Country Club/Downtown.
- Route 30 will change slightly on September 24 and will no longer connect between Rosstown Road and Bowen Road. Instead, it will cross over Bowen Road and onto Meredith Road and service along the new connector, Powder Works Road.


Transit Service Alerts

Transit operations can be impacted by adverse weather, accidents, construction detours, changing road conditions and more. To ensure the safety of passengers, drivers and the public, bus routes are detoured as needed. For information on route changes and to check for service alerts, visit rdn.bc.ca/transit-service-alerts. For trip planning on the Nanaimo Regional Transit System, including the new fall schedule, visit bctransit.com/nanaimo.

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