

December 18, 2025

RDN Transit Winter Schedule, Route Changes and Service Expansion

Changes are coming to the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) transit schedules, routes and service over the holiday season and in early 2026.

Holiday Season Route Changes

Between December 21, 2025, and January 4, 2026, trips marked with “s” in the schedule, will be removed on the following routes:

- 5 Fairview
- 6 Harewood
- 20/20A Hammond Bay/Dover
- 30 NRGH
- 40 VIU Express
- 92 Hammond Bay

Holiday Season Schedule Changes

Date	Local	handyDART	70 NCX (Nanaimo to Cowichan)	99 (Deep Bay to Fanny Bay)
December 24	Regular Service			
December 25	Sunday Level Service	<i>No Service</i>	Sunday Level Service	Sunday Level Service
December 26	Saturday Level Service	<i>No Service</i>	Saturday Level Service	Saturday Level Service
Dec 27-30	Regular Service			
December 31	Regular Service Free from 6 p.m. to 2:30 a.m.	Regular Service		
January 1, 2026	Sunday Level Service	<i>No Service</i>	Sunday Level Service	Sunday Level Service
January 2, 2026	Regular Service			

To see these changes, including the winter schedule, and for trip planning, visit bctransit.com/nanaimo.

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Service Hours Expansion and Major Route Changes

Beginning January 4, 2026, 4,000 additional service hours are being added to Route 1 Nanaimo Rapid Line and 40 VIU Express for improved service during peak hours. These hours will help make transit trips to school, work and other destinations more convenient for transit customers.

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 increased 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 five years. 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.

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 alerts.bctransit.com/nanaimo. For trip planning on the Nanaimo Regional Transit System, including the winter schedule, visit bctransit.com/nanaimo.


Introduction of BC Transit's New Look for Buses

Starting in January, RDN Transit will begin using new light duty buses with BC Transit's two new colours for buses. This is BC Transit's first notable change to exterior bus designs since 2007. This new look consists of two colours, a vibrant green that entirely covers the front of the bus and a pure white that covers the back. The two colours merge at the centre, separated by a diagonal swoop creating a sense of movement. The green represents BC Transit's commitment to a modern and environmentally friendly future for public transit across the province. There will be no changes to BC Transit's logo or other branding graphics. There will be no change to the interior of the buses. For information, visit bctransit.com/bus-designs.

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For more information, please contact:

Rebecca Taylor
Communications Coordinator
Regional District of Nanaimo

 250-713-2400

 engagement@rdn.bc.ca

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