
INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Ministry of Environment

EVERGREEN LINE RAPID TRANSIT PROJECT APPROVED

VICTORIA – The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has received an environmental assessment certificate for the Evergreen Line Rapid Transit Project.

Environment Minister Murray Coell and Community, Sport and Cultural Development Minister Stephanie Cadieux made the decision to grant the environmental assessment certificate after considering the review led by B.C.'s Environmental Assessment Office (EAO).

The \$1.4-billion project will link the cities of Burnaby, Port Moody and Coquitlam with an 11-kilometre advanced light rapid transit line between Lougheed Town Centre in Burnaby and Douglas College in Coquitlam. The components of the project include elevated and at-grade guideways, a two-kilometre tunnel, six stations, power substations, train operating systems, parking facilities, and a vehicle storage and light maintenance facility. The project would fully integrate into the existing SkyTrain system, linking directly to the Millennium Line, with connections to the Expo Line, Canada Line, the West Coast Express and regional bus networks.

Provincial taxes generated during construction will be approximately \$74.9 million, including commodity taxes (\$51.1 million), personal income taxes (\$19.1 million) and corporate taxes (\$4.7 million). Municipal revenue during construction is expected to be \$6.2 million. The four-year construction phase is expected to generate 4,000 person-years of full-time, direct employment.

The EAO assessment report concluded the project is not likely to have significant adverse effects, based on the mitigation measures and commitments included as conditions of the environmental assessment certificate. The provincial certificate contains 157 commitments the proponent must implement throughout various stages of the project.

Key commitments include the following:

- Install erosion and sediment control structures to prevent the introduction of silt, sediment and/or sediment-laden run-off into creeks.
- Re-vegetate affected riparian habitats and ensure the survival of plant material in re-vegetated areas, including the control of invasive species.
- Undertake a noise and vibration management plan that will set out site-specific measures to mitigate noise and vibration related impacts to residents and businesses.
- Provide municipalities with 72-hours advance notice of construction work scheduled beyond municipal noise bylaw hours.

The project did not require an environmental assessment under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. However, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Environment Canada participated in the provincial environmental assessment. Before the project proceeds, the proponent will still need to obtain the necessary federal and provincial licences, leases and other approvals.

The Kwikwetlem First Nation, Musqueam Indian Band, Qayqayt First Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation were consulted on the assessment, and the Province is satisfied the Crown's duties to consult and accommodate First Nations interests have been discharged as they relate to the decision to grant the environmental assessment certificate.

The project will remove approximately 60,000 cars from the road by 2020 and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 18.3 kilotonnes over that same time period.

More information on the environmental assessment certificate can be found at:
www.eao.gov.bc.ca

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Media Contact: Colin Grewar
Media Relations
Ministry of Environment
250 387-9630

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