

Summary Report: Port Moody Info Session + Community Outreach

Project: EMUP Propulsion Power Upgrades
2023-07-13



BACKGROUND

The Expo and Millennium Line Upgrade Program-Propulsion Power Upgrades are being undertaken to provide additional power redundancy on existing SkyTrain lines. The system currently has enough propulsion power substations (PPS), however with the planned fleet additions and increases to service levels in the next few years, more substations are required to maintain the same level of redundancy.

To meet the future power requirements, new substations are planned at 8 locations, including one to be located west of Moody Centre Station, parallel to the SkyTrain line on the north side of Clarke Street, between Moody and Grant Streets.

TransLink has been working with the City of Port Moody to ensure the project meets municipal requirements and includes desired public realm enhancements.

TransLink implemented a community outreach program in June 2023 to ensure local stakeholders were informed of the project, and for TransLink to gather general feedback, hear suggestions for site improvements, and understand residents' point of view on how the project can minimize impacts to residents during construction and once the building has been built.

WHAT WE DID

TransLink's community outreach program followed the City of Port Moody's Community Information Guidelines for Applicants.

Notification: We undertook the following tactics to inform local stakeholders of the project and opportunities and to ask questions and provide feedback, and how to contact TransLink:

- Advertisements placed in Tri-City News June 1 and 8 (see Appendix A)
- 1,793 letters to all addresses within approx. 500 m of project, week of May 29 (see Appendix A)
- Letter emailed to property management for strata buildings opposite project site
- Project information on translink.ca/propulsionpower

Outreach: We provided the following opportunities for local stakeholders to ask questions and share feedback with TransLink staff:

Summary Report: Port Moody Info Session + Community Outreach

- Public Information session at Moody Centre Station¹ on June 15, 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm
- Door knocking at businesses along Clarke Street on June 15, 2023
- Email account (publicengagement@translink.ca) to respond to questions and receive feedback.

WHAT WE HEARD

Public Information Session

A public information session was held from 3:00-7:00 pm, June 15, at Moody Centre Station. Staff tracked **58 interactions**, about half of whom identified themselves as residents living near the project site. Engagement boards provided information about the substation location, context, dimensions, elevation and expected view impacts, design and public realm enhancements, and project timeline. The boards were also available as handout to attendees.

Overall, most feedback indicated that people were supportive or ambivalent about the propulsion power substation project. We were able to alleviate concerns and build support for the project with some attendees by providing details of project drivers, the site selection process, and factual information about impacts. Between 5 and 7 attendees were opposed to the project and planned follow-up action.

Key feedback themes in support:

- Liking the building design
- Appreciation for efforts taken to minimize view impacts
- Appreciated effort to design a more interesting building than typical PPS, and public art option
- General support for infrastructure that would enhance or improve the delivery of transit service
- Liked the approach to add landscaping (e.g. tree re use and use of rain gardens) but would appreciate larger landscape areas for variety and screening

Key themes of concern from those opposing the project included:

- The selection of location
- View impacts
- Displaced vegetation
- One person asked why the building design was not more modern in appearance
- Belief that Evergreen Extension engagement promised a green buffer adjacent to the guideway
- The promised trees along the guideway were not planted but now there will also be a building to displace existing landscaping
- Noise impacts
- Potential health impacts from electromagnetic fields

¹ Info-session location changed to Moody Station on June 14. A TransLink staff member was posted at location for duration of info session to redirect attendees and share project information.

Summary Report: Port Moody Info Session + Community Outreach

Door knocking at businesses

Public affairs staff visited 11 businesses on Clarke Street facing the project site on June 15, between 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

- Overall, businesses were ambivalent or supportive.
- They expressed concern about traffic impacts on Clarke Street, because of recent construction in the area. They appreciated that the work is not expected to begin until summer 2024.
- TransLink staff committed to early notification and asked for contact details from businesses.

Emails

We received and responded to seven emails between June 2 and 30.

- Four asked for additional information regarding height of the structure and level of noise
- Three strongly opposed the project, expressing concerns about view impacts, level of noise and lack of consultation

Top questions and our responses

Following summarizes the questions asked by local residents and business through the community outreach period in June 2023, and the responses TransLink provided. It includes questions from all outreach activities: public info session, door knocking, and email communications.

Question	Information provided by TransLink
What will the level of noise be from the substation?	The noise generating equipment will be fully enclosed within the PPS building. The actual equipment noise level would at a similar dB to household appliance such as a typical laundry machines and not noticeable outside of the PPS building.
Will the substation construction be noisy?	There will be some noise during construction, but we expect construction activities to comply with the City noise bylaws.
What are the view impacts?	The PPS building is sunken below sidewalk level, and its highest point along the roof line would be about the same height as the ground level of the building across the street and will not block views from units on the second storey or above.
Why was did you select the site on Clarke Street?	This location was one of nine sites considered for this PPS. It met several key criteria that were required for siting a building of this kind, including a site which allowed vehicular access from a roadway, was roughly equidistantly spaced between two existing PPSs on this section of the SkyTrain line, was located close to the SkyTrain line itself, and a site on which TransLink had land rights to build Transit infrastructure. This site was the only site that met all criteria and did not have a current or future land use that precluded the PPS development.

Summary Report: Port Moody Info Session + Community Outreach

Why can't it be located on the other side of the SkyTrain tracks?	The location across the SkyTrain tracks from the proposed site falls within the railway's right of way. That right of way is too narrow for the PPS to fit. TransLink has no land rights in that location. It would require access vehicles to cross the railway lines to access the PPS, which is not a viable option.
Does the electrical substation pose a health risk to those living near it?	The PPS will be serviced by a 25KV power supply, which is on par with a supply line that services a multi-story residential building – such as those across Clarke Street from the PPS location. The distance between the PPS and the residential buildings on Clarke Street is approximately 25 metres – the same distance between the existing Lougheed PPS and residential buildings.
Will there be a bike path built as part of this project	The bike path shown in rendering is based on feedback from the City of Port Moody but will not be developed by TransLink as part of the PPS project.
Will the PPS project impact the existing sidewalk or road width?	No, the PPS project will not encroach onto the existing curb or road edge.
How will the PPS exterior walls be treated?	The recessed arches along the wall will be offered to the City of Port Moody as an opportunity for public art. The artwork will be procured and managed by the City.
Will the lighting from the PPS create direct glare for the residents or pedestrians?	The PPS lighting is not expected to impact residents: lighting of the sunken loading area/entrance will be below sidewalk grade; and lighting along the south wall will be low-level accent lighting that will be directed downward. No up-lighting is required at the PPS. Street lighting and pedestrian lighting for any sidewalks will be provided by the City.

Summary Report: Port Moody Info Session + Community Outreach

APPENDIX A: NOTIFICATION

Newspaper Advertisement: Tri-City News, June 1 and 8*

TransLink's Info-Session: Power Upgrades Project

TransLink will be installing a propulsion power substation near Moody Centre Station. This upgrade will enhance safety and reliability as we expand the SkyTrain network.

To learn more, come to our info-session or visit translink.ca/propulsionpower.

Date: Thursday, June 15, 2023
Time: 3 to 7 p.m.
Location: 2709 Clarke Street (Outdoor BBQ area)

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Letter delivered to local residents and businesses week of May 29*

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South Coast British Columbia
 Transportation Authority

May 16, 2023

PORT MOODY SKYTRAIN PROPULSION POWER SUBSTATION PROJECT
 Public Information Session

Footprint of proposed substation to be located along Clarke, between Moody and Grant Streets.

TransLink is working to enhance the SkyTrain network to run more trains and carry more passengers across Metro Vancouver in the coming years. As we expand the SkyTrain fleet with longer trains and increased service levels, additional propulsion power substations are required to maintain a safe and reliable SkyTrain service.

Information about the power propulsion project is online at translink.ca/propulsionpower.

To meet the future power reliability requirements, new substations are planned at eight locations across the existing SkyTrain system, including one to be located west of Moody Centre Station.

The propulsion power substation proposed for Port Moody will be located adjacent to the SkyTrain line on the north side of Clarke St just west of Moody Street overpass. TransLink has been working with the City of Port Moody to ensure the project meets municipal requirements and includes desired public realm enhancements.

We invite you to attend a drop-in public information session to learn more about the proposed substation, the project timeline, and anticipated construction impacts. TransLink's project team will be on hand to share information and answer your questions.

Public Information Session Details:

Date: Thursday, June 15, 2023
Time: 3 to 7 p.m.
Location: 2709 Clarke Street (Outdoor BBQ area)

If you are unable to attend and would like more information on the project, contact us at publicengagement@translink.ca. You can also reach us through Customer Service at 604.953.3333 (Monday to Sunday, 6:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.)

* Re change to info-session location: See footnote, Page 2.

Summary Report: Port Moody Info Session + Community Outreach

APPENDIX B: ENGAGEMENT MATERIAL

Engagement boards for June 15, 2023, Public Information Session.

The boards were also shared by email, as a PDF, and as a handout at the Public Information Session.

