



A TRANSPORTATION PLAN

SHORT ON PARKING SPACES, WHISTLER PREPARES TO WELCOME THE WORLD

Some people say it's all about transportation: how are people going to get here? Others say it's all about communication: tell them how to get here!

During the Winter Olympic Games in February, 2010 public parking will be significantly reduced in Whistler. The day skier parking lots will not be available for the month of February 2010, as they will be used to facilitate transportation and operations for the Games. Parking at Whistler Creekside will transition from full access to restricted access in fall 2009 through the Games. Details are being developed in conjunction with Whistler Blackcomb and local businesses.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Getting around during the Games

Getting around during the Games may take a little more time, but with co-ordinated and advanced planning, it will be manageable and allow everyone to enjoy the Games. The Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC), the resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) and transportation partners are working to ensure that transportation will be smooth, safe and reliable.

"The RMOW is expecting a resort capacity beyond what we would typically see during the Christmas season," says Bill Barratt, Chief Administrative Officer at the RMOW. "On top of the additional volume, there will be changes to peak travel times, modifications to public parking and some changes to routing. We are working with businesses and residents to make sure transportation in Whistler works for residents, businesses and visitors."

The Integrated Games Transportation Plan (IGTP) aims to provide residents in the Lower Mainland, Whistler, and the Sea to Sky corridor with an overview of how transportation will work during the Games. "In Whistler, the RMOW will continue working with residents, businesses and private transportation carriers to understand their transportation needs, from delivery schedules to north-south travel," says Barratt.

The cornerstone of the Whistler component of the IGTP is an increase in public transit. The high volume of Games traffic, coupled with dramatically reduced public parking, will require that most people get around by bus in February. The plan includes an increase in service, an increase in the number of BC Transit buses in the Sea to Sky Corridor from 39 to 135, and an expansion of current routes and schedules. To accommodate Whistler's workforce, the plan includes augmented bus service between Squamish, Whistler and Pemberton during the Games.

"What we're doing now is creating a framework to look at how the many components of our Integrated Games Transportation Plan work together. For example, local neighbourhoods near venues will have limited permitting to minimize congestion. There will be defined routes for transit and Olympic client services vehicles. And business deliveries will generally take place in off-peak hours."

To avoid road capacity issues, and to ensure people can plan their travel, residents will be well informed of the best times to schedule day-to-day tasks, such as grocery shopping. The RMOW will be publishing a residents' guide. In addition, VANOC will be publishing a spectators' guide and the Whistler Chamber of Commerce will be creating a business readiness guide. "The Games are going to be an amazing experience that nobody should miss," says Barratt. "I am confident that with the input we've received and our commitment to create solutions, Whistler will succeed in hosting extraordinary Games."

Magnitude of the Olympic Games

85 countries

60+ sport events in Whistler;
43 medal events in Whistler

10,000 to 58,000 daily
spectators in Whistler

14,000 Whistler workforce,
volunteers, and contractors

2,750 athletes in Whistler

3,500 media representatives in
Whistler

75 million projected visits,
worldwide, to vancouver2010.com

3 billion television viewers

COMPETITION VENUES

Whistler Creekside

Competition venue for Alpine speed and technical events

The Whistler Sliding Centre

Competition venue for bobsleigh, luge, and skeleton events

Whistler Olympic Park

Competition venue for biathlon, cross-country skiing, Nordic combined, and ski jumping events

NON-COMPETITION VENUES

Olympic and Paralympic Athletes Village

Athletes Village Legacy – Cheakamus Crossing

- 221 resident-restricted homes
- 55 Whistler Housing Authority apartments
- 20 market townhomes
- 55-room/188-bed hostel
- 100-room athlete lodge
- High-performance athlete centre

Whistler Media Centre

Approximately 3,500 media expected in Whistler



SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

The Whistler component of the IGTP provides Whistler residents, businesses, spectators and visitors with an information overview related to their transportation needs during the Games.

Public transit is a key element in the 2010 Integrated Games Transportation Plan. For the month of February 2010, Whistler residents and visitors will have a chance to live and experience the transportation objectives as outlined in Whistler2020, Whistler's comprehensive sustainability vision and plan.

Whistler2020 identifies an effective, accessible transportation system as a critical component to Whistler's success as a destination resort community on a journey toward sustainability. This includes adopting responsible methods of transportation as preferred methods of transportation. These include pedestrian and non-motorized means, enhancing public transit, and using less carbon-intensive, more efficient public transportation systems such as the newly launched hydrogen buses that will be used during the Games, when possible.

By working together to maximize public transit use and by making more sustainable transportation choices, Whistler can not only provide residents and visitors with safe and reliable Games-time transportation but can also encourage long-term shifts towards more reasoned, efficient transportation choices envisioned in Whistler2020.

The 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games are an extraordinary opportunity to welcome the world and realize our community's long-term goals. The resort Municipality of Whistler doesn't have all the answers, but are working to help residents and businesses find the information they need to effectively plan for the Games.

The IGTP includes transportation information for a large geographic area, the "Games Theatre," which includes over 65 competition and non-competition venues and sites and extends from the City of Richmond to Vancouver, West Vancouver, Whistler, and the Sea to Sky corridor.

The IGTP looks at a number of factors including venues access and security, transportation of athletes and officials, supporting sustainable transportation, and day-to-day impacts of Games transportation on residents and businesses.

TRANSPORTATION HIGHLIGHTS

SEA TO SKY HIGHWAY

The Sea to Sky Highway has been prepared for Games-time transportation:

- Athletes, spectators, workforce and media will use enhanced transit services and Olympic Bus Network.
- Day skiers and other visitors will be strongly encouraged to travel by commercial motor-coach service to Whistler.
- Residents, commuters, visitors, and spectators will be encouraged to reduce unnecessary vehicle trips, to use alternate modes of transportation and to travel at non-peak times.
- A traffic checkpoint will be implemented north of Squamish to ensure safe and efficient travel on Highway 99.
- Enhanced snow clearing, maintenance and incident management resources will be used to aid traffic flow.
- Emergency contingency plans are being developed, including Duffy Lake Road, plus marine links from Horseshoe Bay to Porteau Cove and Darrell Bay in Squamish.
- Lane reversals will be implemented: two northbound lanes from Horseshoe Bay to Function Junction (Whistler) during peak morning period; and two southbound lanes, as required, during peak afternoon/evening period.

HIGHWAY 99 IN WHISTLER

- Temporary northbound third lane through Whistler with priority to transit buses, Olympic-accredited vehicles, delivery trucks and other commercial vehicles
- Temporary right and left turns at Whistler Way and left turns at Taylor Way
- Traffic control and signage; traffic signal prioritization through Whistler
- Traffic signal at Highway 99 and Nancy Green as alternate for local traffic at Lorimer Road and Blackcomb Way
- Enhanced maintenance and incident management

OLYMPIC BUS NETWORK

The Olympic Bus Network will take spectators from Vancouver to Whistler venues (\$25 for a round-trip ticket) and Whistler spectators to the Whistler Olympic/Paralympic Park.

ENHANCED BC TRANSIT SERVICE DURING THE GAMES

- 246 per cent increase in bus fleet size, from 39 to 135 buses, servicing Whistler, Squamish and Pemberton
- Transit service operating seven days a week, around the clock
- Improved frequency on eight existing Whistler routes
- New community bus services on five Whistler neighbourhood routes
- New 2010 Olympic Express route on Highway 99
- Goal of having bus stops within a 10-minute walking distance of 90 per cent of the neighbourhoods in Whistler
- Increased service to events at Whistler Creekside and the Whistler Sliding Centre on competition days
- Introduction of demonstration hydrogen bus fleet

The Whistler draft transportation plan is part of the IGTP, and includes four transportation management strategies:

- 1. Transportation Demand Management:** This focuses on reducing everyday/background traffic, decreasing the number of vehicles on the road during peak periods, and making it easy for people to use public transit systems and active modes of transportation.
- 2. Routing:** Routing focuses on using existing roads and transportation corridors and making modifications to accommodate Games-time conditions.
- 3. Vehicle Restrictions:** By restricting the number of vehicles that have access to areas adjacent to venues, congestion can be prevented, while ensuring authorized vehicles can get to their destination easily and on-time.
- 4. Traffic Management:** This strategy calls for a significant reduction in the number of single occupancy vehicles on Highway 99 and within Whistler, which will be achieved by increases in transit services.

PARKING

Parking will be managed with some adjustments and temporary measures. Whistler Village parking will be reassigned for short-term convenience parking, deliveries, medical parking, hotel check-ins and shuttle drop zones. Permitting street parking and delivery zones, plus extending day-time street parking restrictions to seven days per week in subdivisions will be added.

Day Skier Lots, public parking under the Conference Centre, lot A adjacent to the Conference Centre and Creekside parking will be unavailable. Finally, additional enforcement, enhanced towing, and an expanded impound lot will be provided.

Roads and parking facilities included in the venue perimeter will have the highest levels of security with on-site screening.

The Integrated Games Transportation Plan is a work in progress, and the RMOW and other transportation partners are working together to ensure the success of the Games for 17 days as they welcome the world to Whistler. ■

For more information visit these websites:

Vancouver Organizing Committee - vancouver2010.com
Resort Municipality of Whistler – whistler.ca & whistler2020.ca
BC Transit – bctransit.com