

# Independent Transit Services Factsheet

## Context

The *South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority (SCBCTA) Act* includes provisions for addressing independent transit services (ITS). The legislation applies to any bus or rail transportation provided within the region by anyone other than TransLink or its subsidiaries or contractors. The TransLink Board must approve an ITS to operate, including any terms or conditions.

## Process

TransLink's process for addressing a potential ITS follows three main steps:

- I. **defining** if a service is an ITS;
- II. application of **evaluation** criteria to inform recommendations; and
- III. TransLink Board **approval** or denial, **including terms and conditions** required for an approved service to operate.

## Evaluation

As outlined in the Act, TransLink may grant approval to establish or operate an ITS if:

1. the ITS does not reduce the effectiveness of the regional transportation system, and
2. the ITS does not reduce the financial viability of the regional transportation system.

Independent Transit Services may not receive financial support from TransLink.

## Approval

The Act allows TransLink to apply terms and conditions prior to a service commencing operation. These may include:

- the right to re-evaluate the ITS in the future;
- requiring a change to the service plan;
- a defined notification and reporting process;
- conditions for negotiating use of TransLink infrastructure and branding;
- other conditions as deemed necessary.

An ITS will not be authorized to operate unless all terms and conditions are met.

## The role of independent transit services

Approved independent transit services can be considered complementary to the regional transportation system, provided they do not reduce the financial viability or effectiveness of TransLink.

## Contact Us

If you have questions about existing or potential independent transit services in Metro Vancouver contact us at [its@translink.ca](mailto:its@translink.ca)