

Translink Tour - Photos and Article by Ken Bryden

On April 28, 2014, thirty of us toured TransLink's maintenance and control facilities in Burnaby – the Canada Line is an entirely separate operation and not maintained by TransLink. First we were given a briefing of TransLink's system (it includes Sky Train, buses, and many bridges and roads), and of the new Compass fare card. Fare revenues amount to \$500 million/year – that's only one-third of operating costs.

We were split into two groups to view the large maintenance building, where routine grinding of the wheels of Sky Train cars was in progress. Typically, about one millimetre (or several) is removed, while the wheels remain on the cars.

We then saw the control room, with schematics of the entire system showing all trains in motion, and rows of TV monitors showing every platform and critical station and track locations. Altogether, there are some 3000 CTV monitors. While there, a call came in of a disturbance at one station – a spill of some sort in a car. Immediately the TransLink Police were called, and the nearest monitor was linked to a much larger high resolution screen. The train moved on, and a crew at a subsequent station was alerted to do the clean-up. We could see everything that happened, but fortunately it was not serious. The morning concluded with a delightful lunch at the Riverway Golf Clubhouse.

