



TransLink

1700 – 4720 Kingsway
Burnaby, BC V5H 4N2
Canada
Tel (604) 453-4500
Fax (604) 453-4626
www.translink.bc.ca

Greater Vancouver
Transportation Authority

CHAIR
Malcolm Brodie

DIRECTORS
Kurt Alberts
Suzanne Anton

Marvin Hunt
Peter Ladner
Don MacLean

Gordon Robson
Barbara Steele
Sam Sullivan

Joe Trasolini
Richard Walton
Wayne Wright

CEO
Pat Jacobsen

To: GVTA Board of Directors
From: Acting Chief Officer Kenneth Allen
Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority Police Service
Date: February 21, 2007
Subject: **Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority Police Service Update**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with an update on the Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority Police Service's implementation and operations to date.

POLICE SERVICE – FIRST YEAR

The GVTA Police Service rolled out on December 4, 2005 and has completed its first year of operations. The year has been extremely busy with the delivery of policing services to enhance the safety and security of the traveling public and transit employees in the Transportation Service Region, in addition to ongoing development of the infrastructure necessary to support efficient and effective police service delivery.

Seamless Policing

The GVTA Police Service is a Designated Policing Unit that was created with a mandate to preserve and maintain the public peace, prevent crime and offences against the law, aid in the administration of justice and enforce the laws in force in British Columbia, primarily directed towards:

- any criminal activity or breach of public peace that could affect the safety or security of transit passengers, employees or property; and
- conducting investigation and enforcement operations with respect to any unlawful activity on or around transit vehicles and other transit property.

The GVTA Police Service provides supplementary policing services to jurisdictional police, who continue to have primary policing authority in their jurisdictions. A Memorandum of Understanding with Vancouver Police Department, New Westminster Police Service and the RCMP identifies the relationship with the GVTA Police Service, acknowledges co-operation and co-ordination of efforts to provide seamless policing, and confirms response responsibilities. The GVTA Police Service's primary focus (within the transportation environment) is offences committed under provincial statutes, Criminal Code summary conviction offences, and Criminal Code hybrid/dual offences. In emergency circumstances, the policing agency in the most favourable position to provide initial response will take the necessary and appropriate response.

The Designated Policing Unit establishment provides the GVTA Police Service with highly skilled police officers, who now have the tools necessary to address crime and safety issues around the transit system, and to integrate response and problem solving with jurisdictional police.

The GVTA Police Service has established good working relationships with both RCMP and municipal jurisdictional police, as well as other law enforcement agencies such as CN Police, CP Police, Canadian Services Intelligence Services and the Canada Border Services Agency. The Police Service is encouraged by, and appreciative of, the excellent cooperation and coordination experienced with jurisdictional police towards the goal of providing seamless policing to the traveling public, transit employees and local communities. In the Fall of 2006, a meeting was held with jurisdictional police to enhance understanding of the Memorandum of Understanding on operational protocols and to discuss the development of supporting protocol schedules. Work will continue on the protocol development in 2007 as well as advancement of other joint projects with jurisdictional police to address priority crime and safety issues with an integrated and collaborative approach.

Communications

The Operations Communication Centre is fully operational and the GVTA Police Service is now a Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) Level I agency – with the same access as other municipal police agencies. With access to numerous shared police information (including intelligence) and records management systems, the GVTA Police Service is required to meet stringent security and confidentiality provisions, and a variety of security related measures were implemented in order to fulfill these obligations.

GVTA Police Service supervisors have been working on communications protocols with other operation communications centers within the TransLink organization regarding calls for police service and incident response. While work continues on such protocol development, the GVTA Police Service will also endeavor to increase understanding of respective roles and responsibilities.

Building Capacity

A key focus for the Police Service has been the hiring of the required police officers and civilian support personnel to support current service levels. A comprehensive police recruiting process and recruiting unit was established, and nearly all sworn vacancies were filled by year-end. Sixteen recruits are currently in training at the Justice Institute of British Columbia Police Academy and the first group of four recruits is scheduled to graduate in May 2007. Other key positions filled include: Inspector Support Services, Staff Sergeant – Communication Centre, Training Officer, Informatics Manager and, most recently, a Crime Analyst. The 2006 Authorized Strength, both sworn and civilian, was 138 and is projected to be 161.5 in 2007.

By December 2006, every operational member of GVTA Police Service was qualified to Provincial Pistol Standards and certified in force options. These are annual police requirements. Other selected personnel have attended a variety of police related training programs, such as: Counter Terrorism Information Officer, Incident Command Systems, Basic Investigative Skills, Missing Children, Methamphetamine Production and Use of Force Instructor Courses. Certain GVTA Police Service Members are also being trained as TASER Instructors and other operational personnel will receive TASER training in the Spring. Development of the necessary policies and procedures related to TASERS is now underway and, once these policies are approved by the Police Board, TASERS will be issued to the police officers.

The GVTA Police Service is accountable for protecting the security and confidentiality interests of the police service, the public and personnel. The Police Service continues its application of appropriate security clearance requirements for personnel and service providers to the GVTA Police Service, which is a key component of achieving security and confidentiality goals. Attention has also been paid to the protection of physical assets (building and equipment) in consideration of ensuring safety for GVTA Police Service personnel.

Police Board and Police Service Involvement

The GVTA Police Service is governed by a Police Board appointed by the Solicitor General. In 2006, the civilian member of the GVTA Police Board, Mr. Baj Puri, was appointed to represent the Police Board on the BC Association of Police Boards and now serves as the 2007 Vice-President of the Association. This involvement complements the ongoing involvement of the Chief Officer and Deputy Chief Officer in the BC Association of Chiefs of Police and Canadian Association of Police Boards. There are further police personnel who act as liaison to other organizations related to the police service mandate, such as the Integrated National Security Enforcement Team (INSET).

The strong leadership of Chief Officer Robert Kind is recognized in the policing community and, accordingly, he was invited to speak at the prestigious International Police Leadership and Executive Conference held in Vancouver, June 2006. The Chief Officer also presented to and is involved with the Private Sector Committee of the Canadian Chiefs of Police – furthering police agency liaison and information sharing.

OPERATIONS

Operational Statistics and Incidents

A statistical cumulative summary (preliminary) is provided for 2006 reported incidents and includes activities off TransLink property and is based on the total number of General Occurrences (GOs) and Violation Tickets (VTs). (Note: These statistics only count the primary/first Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Offence. There can be up to four offences per GO or Incident.) As the first year statistics will form a baseline for the GVTA Police Service, the new Informatics Manager is reviewing offence coding and clearance by Police Service personnel to ensure consistency with relevant tables and standards, and PRIME audit requirements. In late 2006 a change was made to the timing of data entry of Violation Tickets and this resulted in adjustments to earlier monthly statistics.

Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority Police Service	
<u>All Incidents Counted – January 1 to December 31, 2006</u>	
Crimes Against Persons (<i>e.g., sexual assault, assault, robbery, threats</i>)	412
Crimes Against Property (<i>e.g., theft, possession stolen property, fraud, mischief</i>)	616
Other Criminal Code Violations (<i>e.g., weapons, disturbance, obstruct peace officer, breach</i>)	980
Controlled Drugs & Substances Act	291
Other Federal Statute Violations	23
Provincial Statute Violations (<i>e.g., fare enforcement - GVTA Act, Liquor Control Licence Act, Safe Streets Act</i>)	40,067
Other Occurrences (<i>e.g., bylaw, traffic, warrants, suspicious persons, assist police</i>)	3,483
Traffic Violations	12
Total Offences Counted	45,884

The majority of the reported *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* incidents relate to Possession of Cannabis 30g or Under (176), and Possession of Cocaine (34). There were 635 Executed Warrants, including 290 for RCMP and 310 for Municipal Police Forces. (132 GOs were created with Warrant Executed as the primary offence – reflected in the table above.) This result exemplifies the benefit of the GVTA Police Service mandate. Another result of note is the Assist – RCMP (228) and Assist – Municipal Police Force (206).

Incidents

The following are illustrations of GVTA Police Service Members work in support of seamless policing:

1. Members were conducting fare enforcement at the Stadium SkyTrain Station and dealt with a subject who was unable to present a valid fare. A lengthy investigation ensued over identity and, as the Constable moved in to arrest the subject for obstruction, he fled. The subject was caught and arrested. The subject was lodged in Vancouver Police Department cells, pending an AFIS (fingerprint) check to confirm his identity. Search of the suspect resulted in location of substances under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*. The Constables found that the suspect was wanted on a Canada Wide Warrant for 2nd degree murder, robbery, and aggravated assault. Toronto Metro Police Detectives escorted the subject back to Toronto.
2. A GVTA Police Service Transit Center Liaison Constable was working in his police vehicle in Vancouver and monitoring both the GVTA Police Service and Vancouver Police Department (VPD) radio channels. He heard a VPD broadcast looking for a hit and run suspect from the downtown area. The Constable spotted the suspect vehicle and, following a number of manoeuvres, he was eventually able to get the vehicle pulled over. The driver got out of his vehicle and was walking back towards the police vehicle when the Constable got out and ordered the driver to the ground. The Constable had the driver prone when a VPD dog man arrived and handcuffed the suspect. It was discovered that the vehicle was involved in a pedestrian hit and run where the victim (a tourist from New Zealand) died. The Constable's action led to the successful conclusion of this file in which no other people were injured in the suspect's apprehension.
3. GVTA Police Service Members provided assistance to Burnaby RCMP and the Abbotsford Police Department regarding a drive-by shooting incident. The incident occurred in Abbotsford where the victim was shot 12 times in his driveway. The suspect vehicle was traced to an address in Burnaby where RCMP attended and determined the suspect was at the 22nd Street SkyTrain Station. They requested GVTA Police Service to attend and the suspect was located and arrested without incident by GVTA Police Service and Burnaby RCMP.
4. GVTA Police Service Members checked an individual off property near Surrey Central SkyTrain Station. While conducting their investigation, the subject produced a piece of paper (bank slip) that appeared to have been the start of a robbery note. The subject was detained for investigation of possible robbery. The Member contacted Surrey RCMP, who then attended at the police sub-office. The subject had committed robberies in Surrey and was turned over to Surrey RCMP officers. Surrey RCMP has advised that the suspect is linked to six armed

robberies and, possibly another robbery, if GVTA Police Service Members had not intervened.

5. A GVTA Police Service Member checked an individual at 29th Avenue SkyTrain Station in Vancouver for proof of fare. A false name was provided which resulted in an obstruction arrest. Members discovered through police database checks that individual wanted on an US arrest warrant issued by the Osceola Sheriffs Department/Florida. The individual was detained in Vancouver Police Department jail pending deportation by immigration and return to the US.
6. A victim of a Burnaby home invasion spotted the suspect at Metrotown SkyTrain Station and then contacted Burnaby RCMP. The RCMP advised GVTA Police Service. The suspect was located and arrested by GVTA Police Service Members without incident, and then turned over to Burnaby RCMP.

Teleconference

In order to reduce time that police officers spent travelling to, and waiting in, Traffic Court, the GVTA Police Board approved policy that allows Members to use the teleconference process to appear and prosecute over the phone for Traffic Court hearings. Use of the teleconference hearing process must be in compliance with provisions of the *Offence Act*, including the established Criteria for Teleconferencing. In 2006, Members have successfully utilized the teleconference system for ticket dispute, and increased use of this mechanism is planned for 2007. Teleconferencing provides greater operational flexibility and efficiencies to the Police Service.

Joint Projects

The GVTA Police Service Transit Centre Liaison constables have partnered in a variety of joint projects, including: a stolen project investigation with Vancouver Police Department, Canada Day policing response with West Vancouver Police Department, and Newton Loop enforcement with Surrey RCMP. A more detailed example is the GVTA and New Westminster Police Services' joint task force targeting drugs and other criminal activity along the New Westminster SkyTrain corridor. The project ran on ten different dates through to July 28, 2006. The project involved undercover operators and high visibility police presence along with conducting of street checks and speaking with the general public in the target areas. Police officers from the GVTA, New Westminster and Port Moody Police Services, and the Coquitlam and Richmond RCMP took part in various aspects of the project. During this initiative, GVTA Police Service made contact with 77 street checks, and charges are as follows:

Trafficking – Controlled Drugs & Substances Act	15
Possession - Controlled Drugs and Substances Act	5
Warrant Executed (<i>including 1 Canada wide</i>)	15
Breach Recognizance/Probation 11	11
Assault	2
Utter Threats	1
Possession Stolen Property Auto	1
No Case Seizures	8

2006 Budget Performance

In its Q3 Operating Budget Status Report to the GVTA Police Board, the GVTA Police Service reported a year-end projection of 1.93% under budget or \$248,460. Details will appear in the TransLink “2006 Revenue and Expenditure Report” to the GVTA Board at its scheduled April 18, 2007 meeting. Preliminary actual year-end results continue to show the Police Service below the 2006 funding envelope as approved by the GVTA Board. Year-end results will be presented to the Police Board at their March 12, 2007 meeting.

NEW INITIATIVES

Canada Line

The Canada Line is scheduled to come into revenue service in the Fall of 2009. In order to provide policing services of a similar level to that provided to the Millennium and Expo Lines, the GVTA Police Service determined that 44 officers were required (4 squads of 10 Constables and one Sergeant). The policing model takes into account the length of the line, number of spurs and stations, and the time between trains. In order to have the necessary staff in place for the 2009 rollout, recruit ramp-up will commence in 2007 and continue over three years. A strategically located report location is being pursued to enable efficient deployment of police personnel to that line.

Strategic Plan

As a new Designated Policing Unit in BC with a unique policing mandate and structure, and as a police service that is expected to expand substantially over the next five years, it is critical for the GVTA Police Service to think strategically and chart a course of action for the future. The Police Service commenced a strategic planning process in 2006 and has involved a multitude of stakeholders in focus groups and operations plan committees. This comprehensive plan will cover a five-year period and includes dynamic, operations, monitoring and financial plans. Core areas addressed are Operations, People, Communication, Physical and Administration. The Police Service will be submitting the draft plan to the GVTA Police Board and TransLink shortly.

Administrative Space

Due to existing police operational needs and organizational growth, a number of administrative personnel are being relocated from the current police building at 307 Columbia Street to nearby space. The transition to the administrative space will take place over the next few months.

Positive Response

The GVTA Police Service continues to receive positive comments from the traveling public and transit employees about the presence of the police officers around the transit system and the import of their policing work. Similarly, jurisdictional police have recognized the benefit of the Designated Policing Unit towards crime prevention and crime reduction.

CONCLUSION

The Police Executive are very proud of the GVTA Police Service's accomplishments during the first year of operations and look forward to increased efforts in 2007 towards preserving and maintaining public safety and reducing crime. Our increased abilities in the gathering and sharing of intelligence information with partners will enhance the GVTA Police Service investigation and enforcement operations. The GVTA Police Service will also continue working on building organizational capacity to support an efficient and effective police service and the growth necessary to service expanding transit services.