

Arbutus to UBC SkyTrain

Overview

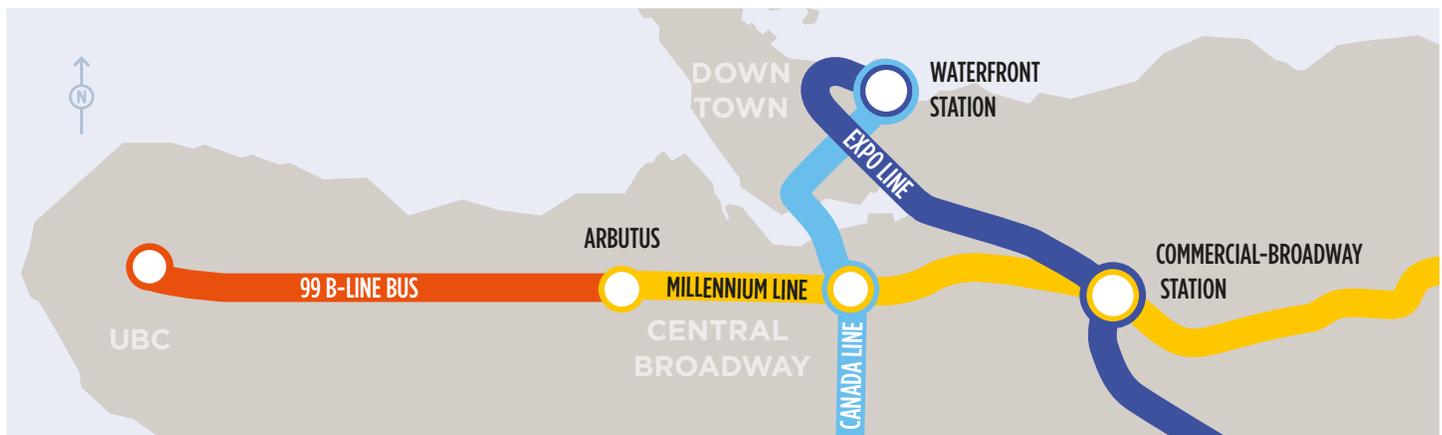
The Broadway corridor from Commercial Drive to UBC is home to the busiest bus route in Canada and the United States and some of the region's worst congestion. B-Line buses on this corridor carry 60,000 people a day. Even with buses running every 2-3 minutes during peak times, half a million people per year are left waiting as full buses pass them by.

To deal with the significant capacity and congestion issues along Broadway, the region's SkyTrain network is being extended partway to UBC through the Broadway Subway Project. Once the project is completed in 2025, the extension will end at Arbutus Street where people will transfer onto buses that will run frequently between Arbutus Street and UBC. While the extension of SkyTrain to Arbutus Street

will provide much-needed relief for people travelling to and from this section of the corridor, it is not a complete solution. When the Broadway Subway opens in 2025, overcrowding, queuing and pass-ups are expected to continue during peak hours for tens of thousands of people travelling beyond Arbutus to and from UBC.

A three-party First Nations' development corporation, the City of Vancouver and UBC are all committed to extending the Broadway Subway Project all the way to UBC, in accordance with the Regional Mayors' Council Vision. To keep the project progressing and avoid a break in project development work, funding for the business case must be secured.

Broadway Subway Project to Arbutus - Opening 2025



Arbutus to UBC SkyTrain - Proposed



Arbutus to UBC SkyTrain

Opportunities

Meeting demand

- Nearly 80,000 people work and study at UBC's Vancouver campus every day, which is larger than most BC municipalities.
- 55,000 UBC students and staff commute to campus daily.
- The Arbutus to UBC SkyTrain will eliminate overcrowding on all but two east-west bus routes travelling to UBC through Vancouver, providing increased transit capacity for people along these corridors beyond 2045.

Regional benefits

- 50% of people commuting to UBC don't live in Vancouver.
- UBC-bound commuters travel from every Metro Vancouver municipality.
- The Arbutus to UBC SkyTrain will provide a link between the innovation centres at UBC with the centres of high-tech and biomedical employment in other parts of the region.

Environmental benefits

- Broadway Subway plus the Arbutus to UBC SkyTrain will reduce air contaminants and GHG emissions by over 300 kilotonnes over the next 35 years.
- Broadway Subway and the Arbutus to UBC SkyTrain will remove over 2,000 vehicle trips from roads during peak hours every day.

Access to affordable housing

- Improving access to affordable housing options across the entire length of the line, including at UBC.

Challenges

- **Overcrowding/Queuing:** The region's transit authority anticipates that buses running between Arbutus to UBC will be at capacity during the morning peak as soon as the currently funded extension opens.
- **Disconnected hub:** This leaves UBC, one of the largest employment centres in the province, disconnected from an efficient transit network.
- **Increased project costs:** Delaying the project will increase costs through inflation and requirement to re-establish project delivery teams.
- **Overcrowding on east-west bus routes:** Without a SkyTrain extension, by 2045, buses on 10 of the 11 east-west bus routes connecting to UBC are anticipated to be overcrowded, beyond the ability to increase capacity with buses alone. With 35,000 people moving to Metro Vancouver each year, this overcrowding will only grow.

State of Project

Work is underway to determine the route, station locations and preliminary benefit-cost ratios with completion expected by the end of 2020.

Next steps

The City of Vancouver, UBC, and the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Development Corporation (MST-DC) have entered into a historic Memorandum of Understanding to work together to keep this important project moving forward.

To ensure there are no delays, funding must be secured for business-case development work. This requires commitments for future funding from the Province and Federal Government.



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