

# FACT SHEET



## Transportation Update from the Olympic and Paralympic Transportation Team (OPTT)

### General

- Transportation is one of the greatest challenges to staging the 2010 Winter Games.
- Reducing vehicle use is an important part of meeting this challenge, particularly in key areas such as downtown Vancouver, the North Shore crossings, the Sea to Sky corridor and Whistler.
- Everyone is encouraged to enjoy the Games, but please use sustainable modes of transportation. “Know before you go” — plan ahead, dress warmly and allow plenty of travel time, no matter what mode of transport you choose.
- [travelsmart2010.ca](http://travelsmart2010.ca) is the best resource for transportation information, trip-planning tools and up-to-date information about getting around during the Games.

### Torch Relay

- The Olympic Flame will pass through more than 50 Lower Mainland and Sea to Sky communities between February 5 and 11, 2010. It will travel throughout Vancouver, including the downtown core, on February 12, 2010.
- Vehicle travel to or in downtown Vancouver on February 12 is not recommended. The OPTH strongly recommends choosing walking, cycling or transit, and preparing for traffic delays. Rolling road closures of roughly 10 minutes will be in place as the torch travels in and around the downtown core.
- The torch relay route can be viewed at [vancouver2010.com/torchrelay](http://vancouver2010.com/torchrelay). The exact route for each day of the relay is posted two weeks in advance. Come out and celebrate the torch in your community!
- With more than 100,000 people living downtown, 13,000 hotel rooms and 150,000 employees in the downtown area, everyone is encouraged to come out and cheer on the torchbearers on February 12 in the final leg of the flame's historic journey. But please, do not drive downtown!

### Olympic Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies

#### General:

- The Opening and Closing Ceremonies in downtown Vancouver on February 12 and 28, 2010 will be two of the busiest days of the 2010 Winter Games.
- The Ceremonies will bring 100,000 participants into the downtown core including performers, athletes and officials, ticket holders, workforce, media and broadcasters.
- The OPTH is responsible for transporting these groups to and from BC Place from various locations in Metro Vancouver and the Sea to Sky regions.

#### MISSION

To touch the soul of the nation and inspire the world by creating and delivering an extraordinary Olympic and Paralympic experience with lasting legacies.

*Exalter l'âme de la nation et inspirer le monde entier grâce à l'organisation et à la tenue de Jeux olympiques et paralympiques extraordinaires qui laisseront un héritage durable.*

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- These groups are being transported over a period of 12 hours using around 1,500 cars and 500 motorcoaches.
- There will be a full dress rehearsal on February 10, during which time the comprehensive transportation plan will be tested. The same plan will also be implemented for the Paralympic Games Opening Ceremony on March 12.

Transportation details:

- To ensure successful ceremonies, specific temporary changes to the road network in downtown Vancouver will be put in place, in addition to the extensive plans shared publicly since November 2008.
- The following streets will be closed from noon to midnight on February 10, 12, 28 and March 12:
  - Cambie Street Bridge (all lanes)
  - Beatty Street (between Smithe and Georgia)
  - North sidewalk of the 1100 block of West Hastings, in front of the Renaissance Vancouver Hotel (4:00 pm to 5:30 pm)
- On February 10, 12 and 28 there will also be a significant amount of motorcoach activity, including loading, unloading and staging, on Coal Harbour Quay, Canada Place and West Cordova Street from noon to 11 pm.
- Pedestrian access on these affected streets will be maintained.
- To view maps and other information relating to the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, please visit [travelsmart2010.ca](http://travelsmart2010.ca).

**What You Can Do to TravelSmart During the 2010 Winter Games**

- The Opening and Closing Ceremonies in Vancouver (February 12 and 28, and March 12), and the associated dress rehearsal (February 10), are special days where vehicle travel downtown is strongly discouraged. Choose a sustainable mode of transport, such as walking, cycling or transit. If driving is absolutely necessary, plan to leave downtown by noon, or wait until the ceremonies are underway after 5:30 pm.
- If you must travel in downtown Vancouver while the torch relay is underway on February 12, please do not drive.
- For the remainder of the 2010 Winter Games, leave your vehicle behind. TravelSmart in 2010 by choosing a sustainable mode of transportation. Many are available.
- Plan ahead and allow additional travel time. The afternoon peak period for leaving downtown Vancouver — between 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm — is expected to be the busiest time for all modes of transportation. Of all modes, driving will be the slowest and the most challenging.

- Where possible, avoid using the Metro Vancouver transit system for commuter travel between 7:00 am and 9:00 am, and between 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm. This will assist in spreading out the demand during the morning rush hour and will also allow the system to handle the volumes of spectators going to the venues between 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm.
- Dress warmly and “know before you go”. Some transit stops may experience longer than normal wait times. Consider purchasing FareSaver tickets or transit passes in advance to avoid lineups at ticket vending machines. Once you are on the transit system, travel times will be reliable.
- In the Sea to Sky corridor, the need for transit service northbound from Squamish to Whistler will peak at 8:00 am. While BC Transit has significantly increased services in the area, the OPTT recommends avoiding this busy period, or leaving earlier to get to work, and giving yourself plenty of time.
- Travellers are encouraged to “know before you go.” Visit [travelsmart2010.ca](http://travelsmart2010.ca) for more information on transportation changes and options to help you get around.
- Participate in the TravelSmart 2010 Challenge (January 8 to February 12). As road closures begin to take place, residents and businesses are encouraged to try out one of the TravelSmart options every Friday in the lead up to the Opening Ceremony of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games.
- Visit [travelsmart2010.ca](http://travelsmart2010.ca) for information on transportation changes and options to help you get around.

#### **Next transportation update**

- The OPTT will host a transportation-themed Game Plan open house on January 13, 2010 from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm. Please visit [vancouver2010.com/gameplan](http://vancouver2010.com/gameplan) for details. This is the final opportunity for the public to come and ask questions about transportation during the 2010 Winter Games and to speak to 2010 transportation experts.

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