

**For Immediate Release
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**TRANSLINK POLL SHOWS WIDE SUPPORT FOR NDP TRANSIT PLAN
Dix, Ralston call on new TransLink CEO to Take Action**

VICTORIA – A survey done last month for TransLink confirms that riders believe SkyTrain attendants are needed to address ongoing security concerns at stations, New Democrats said today.

“The poll is very clear that people believe the best way to address the safety deficit on SkyTrain is to have live attendants at every station,” said Adrian Dix, the NDP MLA for Vancouver-Kingsway. “This poll tells me that transit riders endorse the 10-point plan to improve SkyTrain safety that we have been advancing. I certainly hope the new CEO for TransLink will take action.”

When asked: “What specific changes should be made to improve your feeling of personal security (on SkyTrain)”, 52 per cent of telephone respondents and 58 per cent of on-line respondents expressed a desire for more SkyTrain attendants. Respondents also cited more SkyTrain police, security cameras, better lights and turnstiles as measures to increase security.

“Minister Falcon’s plan to install turnstiles rated far below attendants for the people surveyed,” said Dix. “Turnstiles are only part of the solution; the Campbell government needs to get moving on the other key elements required to improve security on our transit system.”

Dix also noted that a quarter of telephone respondents and a third of online respondents said they had decided not to use SkyTrain in the past due to concerns about personal security. “At a time when we are encouraging people to leave their car at home and ride public transit, the Campbell government’s lack of action is having a negative effect on our efforts.”

The survey also confirmed that women and people with disabilities have far greater concerns with transit safety.

Bruce Ralston, the NDP MLA for Surrey-Whalley, noted that Surrey Central is the station with the highest level of concern. “People in Surrey are very concerned about safety issues. Yet the Campbell government continues to ignore Surrey and continues to fail residents.

“A significant number of people choose not to take transit for safety reason, including people in Surrey,” said Ralston. “Safety is therefore essential to promoting transit use, and the lack of action to improve security measures is a big problem for people trying to get around the city.”

The TransLink poll was conducted by NRG Research Group, and presented to TransLink on June 26, 2008.

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NDP's 10-point plan, introduced on Nov. 12, 2007, includes:

1. Increase the number of SkyTrain police by 50 per cent, with the goal of having one security person at every SkyTrain station while the line is operating.
2. Provide additional after-hours security at all stations.
3. Place primary focus on security rather than fare evasion.
4. Build new turnstiles now with direct grants from provincial government rather than re-directing Translink resources to private sector scheme.
5. Implement a pilot walk-home program for at least five high-risk stations.
6. Expand the Joyce-Collingwood pink-whistle program.
7. Conduct full review of lighting at SkyTrain stations.
8. Increase sponsorship of community gardens and other amenities at SkyTrain stations.
9. Support the bus drivers campaign to implement stiffer criminal penalties for attacks on transit personnel.
10. Restore support for victims' services and anti-violence against women programs and women's centres.