

# Sea To Sky Transportation Options

## Local Transportation Services

### Emergency Health Services

Emergency Health Services (ambulance) provides transportation for patients when an emergency medical situation requires patient transfer to a larger health centre.

### Public BC Transit, Greyhound, Private Shuttle and Bus Services

BC Transit has a partnership agreement with local governments in Squamish and Whistler and with Pemberton/Mount Currie through the Squamish Lillooet Regional District to provide **local transit** service. [www.bctransit.com/regions](http://www.bctransit.com/regions) for maps, schedules and fares

There is a **commuter service** provided by BC Transit **between Whistler and Pemberton** that runs 4 times per day. [www.bctransit.com/regions](http://www.bctransit.com/regions) for schedules and fares

The Greyhound Bus Company runs a **service in the Corridor from Pemberton to Vancouver with stops in between**; and with more frequency they run a bus between Whistler and Vancouver. [www.greyhound.ca](http://www.greyhound.ca)

It is possible for agencies and individuals to purchase **bulk tickets** at a discounted rate from Greyhound. Greyhound has changed its policy around the use of the commuter or bulk purchased tickets. It is important to confirm with Greyhound how these tickets are accepted locally i.e. is it required that bulk tickets be exchanged at a Greyhound office, therefore not allowing riders to board at other stop locations.

Perimeter Transportation provides bus transportation between Vancouver International Airport, various downtown Vancouver hotel locations and Whistler/Squamish several times a day. Phone 1-877-717-6606 website [www.perimeterbus.com](http://www.perimeterbus.com)

Squamish – Vancouver Express Shuttle. The van leaves the Adventure Centre at 7am and drops riders off at the Waterfront Station. It leaves from downtown Vancouver for Squamish at 5:30pm. The cost for a return ticket is \$17. A one way ticket is \$15. The shuttle bus runs every weekday except holidays. It is based on a first come, first serve basis. For more information call Eduardo Torres at 604-802-2119 or email at [eduardo.torres@headingnorth.com](mailto:eduardo.torres@headingnorth.com)

Whistler Shuttles:

Epic Rides Website: [www.epicrides.ca](http://www.epicrides.ca)

Whistler Direct Shuttle Phone: 1-888-405-2410 Website: [whistlerdirectshuttle.com](http://whistlerdirectshuttle.com)

Snowbus Phone: 1-888-794-5511 Website: [www.snowbus.com](http://www.snowbus.com)

## Accessible Public BC Transit Service

**Squamish Transit** offers a door-to-door accessible service through their **HandyDART** Program. Riders must apply to the service and provide medical documentation of their need. This service runs six days a week during daytime hours. There is also a taxi-saver program that is paired with the HandyDART service for exceptional circumstances when a ride is booked but cannot be accommodated. HandyDART rides must be booked in advance for scheduling reasons. The HandyDART van does not leave Squamish and based on survey responses it does not go into all areas of the District. [www.bctransit.com/regions/squ](http://www.bctransit.com/regions/squ)

**Whistler has transit buses** that lower or "kneel" and have interiors designed to **accommodate passengers in wheel chairs and others with mobility restrictions**. These buses require a raised curb in order to kneel low enough to accommodate a rider in a wheelchair. Some neighbourhoods in Whistler have curbs at the bus stops while others are located on gravel or uneven ground making it difficult for someone with mobility challenges to access. [www.bctransit.com/regions](http://www.bctransit.com/regions) Whistler has an informal taxi-saver program to partially subsidize riders who cannot access Whistler Transit due to mobility limitations assessed on a case by case basis. Contact the RMOW Transportation Coordinator for more information at 604-935-8197.

## Volunteer Driver Programs

**Whistler Community Social Services (WCSS)** runs a Coordinated Volunteer Driver Service through its Helping Hands Program. This service matches people in need: new moms; those with injuries; seniors and the disabled, to volunteers when they need extra assistance. Part of the support includes **door-to-door rides within the community of Whistler and when needed, long distance rides to Squamish and hospitals in North Vancouver and Vancouver**. Access to this service is determined on a case-by-case basis. The service user is expected to pay for the service. WCSS will subsidize the service for those with restricted incomes or those unable to absorb the cost. Contact **604-932-0113** or [admin@mywcsc.org](mailto:admin@mywcsc.org) to find out more about the program.

**Canadian Cancer Society Volunteer Drivers Program serves cancer patients going from Squamish to North Vancouver and Vancouver**. Volunteers provide round-trip transportation to primary cancer treatment appointments, such as chemotherapy and radiation. This free service is based on need and availability. Some flexibility in pickup and departure times is required. 48 working hours notice is necessary to arrange rides. Please call the Volunteer Driver Cancer line at **1-855-215-5462** for rides. Volunteer drivers do not have access to specially equipped vehicles therefore it is important that clients be able to get in and out of a car without assistance. At times there will be sharing of rides with other clients. Rides are provided for an appointment leading up to active treatment and active treatment only. Rides are not provided for follow up appointments or support programs.

## Dedicated Van and Ride Services for Specific Groups

Several community groups and communities have a dedicated van service for groups they support. Some are wheelchair accessible. Vehicles include:

- Hilltop House Seniors Long-term Care Facility in Squamish wheelchair accessible van

- Sea to Sky Community Service's Developmental Service Program group home residents van
- Sea to Sky Community Services Youth Centre Van
- Mount Currie Elder Van (only drives to Pemberton and sites in Mount Currie. Limited to the elderly and disabled)
- Squamish Nation Elder Van
- Samahquam Elder Van
- RMOW Kids on the Go Vans
- Easter Seals Camp Van
- Pemberton Youth Centre

The Shriners offer an accessible passenger bus called the **Care Cruiser**, this bus travels to BC Children's Hospital, BC Women's Hospital and Sunny Hill Hospital, and provides **rides for children in need of medical treatment** and their parents free of charge throughout BC. Pemberton, Whistler and Squamish are identified as communities the bus travels to on request. This bus must be scheduled in advance. [www.shriners.bc.ca/bus](http://www.shriners.bc.ca/bus)

Community support programs in all the community provide rides to appointments for clients they are supporting when it is part of their care plan. Typically these rides are provided for medical appointments that relate to their area of support. For example Vancouver Coastal Health's Mental Health Team may provide a ride and accompaniment to a psychiatrist's appointment or SSCS Community Living Group Home may drive those they support to appointments. This support tends to be provided to those with a high level of dependency or need.

### **Bus Tickets Provided by Service Groups for Emergency Use and other Informal Options**

A limited number of bus tickets are provided to individuals in need with low incomes to get to urgent appointments when needed. Most service providers do not have a dedicated budget line for this provision and do not want to create a false belief that this service is regularly offered as they cannot deal with the demand. Different agencies have informal or formal policies about how tickets are given out and to whom. Individuals seeking support in this area must ask their service provider if this is an option.

Pemberton and Squamish locals give rides to seniors and those in need on an informal basis sometimes through the churches.

Pemberton seniors had a pilot ride program that no longer has funding but the local taxi company still gives the seniors a deal.

### **Ride Share and Carpooling**

Squamish, Whistler and Pemberton residents use ride share and carpooling websites where people looking for rides can connect with people offering rides [www.pickupal.com](http://www.pickupal.com) or

[www.erideshare.com](http://www.erideshare.com) or [www.carpoolworld.com](http://www.carpoolworld.com) or <http://vancouver.kijiji.ca> or [www.hitchwhistler.com](http://www.hitchwhistler.com)

Squamish has a commuter car and van pool service with Jack Bell Ride-Share  
<https://online.ride-share.com>

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Public transportation services available in the Corridor are listed in the following chart.

Transportation Option	Squamish	Whistler	Pemberton	Squamish Nation	Mount Currie	Lower Stl'atl'mx
Public Transit (Local)	x	x	x		x	
Wheelchair Accessible Public Transit		x				
Door to Door Wheel Chair Accessible Local Public Transit Option	x					
Commuter Service		x	x			
Public Transit (Long distance) Example: Greyhound	x	x	x			
Volunteer Driver Program Example: Helping Hands Whistler, Cancer Care BC	x	x				
A dedicated van service for specific groups. Example: Elder's Accessible Van in Mount Currie, Hilltop House Accessible Van	x	x	x	x	x	x (Darcy/N'Quat qua only) ?
Bus ticket provided by social service groups for emergency need	x	x	x	?	?	?
Access to Medical Transportation Funding Program	x	x	x	x	x	x

# Transportation Funding and Programs

## **BC Bus Pass Program (Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation)**

Various individuals receiving assistance are eligible for this bus pass including those on social assistance who are eligible for Persons with Disability funding. If eligible, one can apply annually for a monthly bus pass in any community where BC Transit operates. The cost of registering for this annual program is \$45 a year. If for medical reasons an individual can't access the BC Transit available in their community, they can apply for a Special Transportation Subsidy. Details about the program and the application forms are available at the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation website:

<http://www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/programs>.

## **First Nations Funding**

Members of First Nations communities living on reserve have access to the Non-Insured Health Benefits program. Information about this program can be found at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniah-spnia/nihb-ssna/index-eng.php>.

## **BC Employment and Assistance Program (Ministry of Housing and Social Development)**

This program covers up to 20km locally and will provide a greyhound bus home from hospital if required. A note is required from a physician explaining why the patient is receiving treatment and outlining the patient's current condition.

[www.eia.gov.bc.ca/clientinfo/docs/medtransport-checklist.pdf](http://www.eia.gov.bc.ca/clientinfo/docs/medtransport-checklist.pdf)

## **Medical Transportation Supplement**

If an individual has frequent, local medical appointments or the medical treatment you need is not available in your community, you may receive money for transportation to your medical appointments. Medical transportation supplements are provided to specific recipients of income assistance and disability assistance who are eligible for general health supplements or are facing a life-threatening health need. They are intended to meet extraordinary transportation costs associated with essential medical treatment. Medical transportation supplements are available under the Employment and Assistance Regulation and Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Regulation. If a person is out of work or earning very little, awaiting other income, unable to work or in immediate need of food, shelter or urgent medical attention he or she may be able to receive income assistance or be referred to employment opportunities. Eligibility and monthly assistance rates depend on income and asset levels and the number of people in the family unit. If it is determined that an applicant has an immediate need, the immediate need will be addressed within the same business day. Hardship assistance may be issued in some situations when an individual is not eligible for income assistance. [http://www.sd.gov.bc.ca/olr\\_docs/olr\\_qrg\\_medtrans.pdf](http://www.sd.gov.bc.ca/olr_docs/olr_qrg_medtrans.pdf)

### **At Home Program Medical Benefits (Ministry of Child and Family Development)**

The At Home Program is for children and youth with severe disabilities who are assessed by an At Home Program assessor as dependent in at least three of four functional activities of daily living (eating, dressing, toileting and washing) and living at home with a parent or guardian. Children may be eligible for both respite benefits and medical benefits or a choice of one benefit. At Home Program Medical Benefits cover ambulance services and non-emergency medical transportation.

[www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/at\\_home/med\\_benefits.htm](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/at_home/med_benefits.htm)

[http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/at\\_home/pdf/ahp\\_faq.pdf](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/at_home/pdf/ahp_faq.pdf) ( Frequently Asked Questions)

### **BC Family Residence Program**

Subsidized accommodation and transportation for families whose children are receiving care at BC Children's Hospital in Vancouver

<http://www.bcfamilyresidence.gov.bc.ca/>

### **Travel Assistance Program(TAP) (Ministry of Health)**

To be eligible for TAP:

- you must be a B.C. resident and be enrolled in the Medical Services Plan (MSP);
- you must have a referral from a physician or nurse practitioner for MSP insured specialist medical services which are not available locally;
- your travel expenses must not be covered by third party insurance such as an employer plan, extended medical plan, Insurance Corporation of BC, WorkSafeBC or federal government program (e.g. Veterans' Affairs).

<b><u>Company</u></b>	<b><u>Discount</u></b>
BC Ferries	Full Discount
Angle Air	Free to Cancer Patients
Central Mountain Air	Discount on some flights
Harbour Air Seaplanes	30% Discount
Hawkair	Special fare
Helijet	30% Discount
North Pacific Seaplanes	30% Discount
Pacific Coastal Airlines	30% Discount
West Coast Air	30% Discount
Malaspina	30% Discount on bus ticket (Ferry full discount)
Pacific Coach Lines	30% Discount
VIA Rail	30% discount

[www.health.gov.bc.ca/tapbc/tap\\_patient.html](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/tapbc/tap_patient.html)

### **Hope Air**

Charitable organization for free air transportation

<http://www.hopeair.org/>