

# Surrey Langley SkyTrain Project Environmental Screening Review Process



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## About This Document

This summary document provides an overview of the process for the Environmental Screening Review (ESR) for the Surrey Langley SkyTrain (SLS) project, including a description of the project, the review process, and the studies that will help to assess potential effects of the project and to determine appropriate mitigation measures. Content has been informed by relevant environmental regulations and policies, reviews of similar transportation projects, and feedback from First Nations and stakeholders.

This summary and the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) are available for public comment from November 1 to November 17. For more information about the ESR process and to download a copy of the draft TOR, please visit [surreylangleyskytrain.ca](http://surreylangleyskytrain.ca).



# Project in Context

## Project Description

The proposed Surrey Langley SkyTrain (SLS) project would extend the Expo Line 16-kilometres along Fraser Highway from King George SkyTrain Station to 203 Street in Langley City Centre. Estimates put the capital cost of the project at \$3.12 billion. Currently, there is approximately \$1.6 billion in available funding, which is enough to see the project reach 166 Street in Fleetwood (Surrey), subject to business case approval by funding partners. As such, the project may be constructed and delivered in stages.

Accordingly, TransLink will conduct a comprehensive Environmental Screening Review for the King George SkyTrain Station to 166 Street portion that will be complemented by a high-level review for the 166 Street to Langley City Centre stage. In this way, the ESR process will adhere to the same staged approach as the project.



Once the ESR process and funding has been approved, the proposed early works and construction activities of the project include:

- Site preparation and roadwork, including relocation of some overhead and underground utilities;
- Elevated guideway and storage track construction;
- Civil and structural works for stations;
- Construction of an Operations and Maintenance Centre (OMC) when the line is extended to Langley; and
- Traffic and transit management.

Once operational, the project will integrate fully with existing SkyTrain systems and protocols. With over 30 years of experience building, operating, and maintaining Metro Vancouver's SkyTrain system, TransLink is well-versed in construction and operational management.

### **Regulatory Background**

Provincial and federal environmental assessment legislation does not require a formal environmental review of the Surrey Langley SkyTrain project. Both the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency have confirmed in writing their decisions not to review the project.

Federal and provincial permitting of project components, such as new or modified watercourse crossings, contaminated soil handling, and other aspects of the project that could have environmental effects, will be conducted prior to construction.

## Environmental Screening Review (ESR)

### Purpose

TransLink is committed to delivering the project in a manner that respects the environment and considers the project-related effects, including both natural and human. As such, TransLink will complete a robust ESR to study the potential effects of the project's construction and operation, and to determine and implement mitigation measures, as required. Results of the ESR will inform the final project design, and set quality and performance standards for the construction and operation.

The ESR process will provide an opportunity to support due diligence and transparency, and the feedback from First Nations, government agencies, the public, and stakeholders will help to inform the final project design. The ESR process will also help to identify opportunities and risks and determine how to mitigate these factors during project procurement, construction and operation.

### Process Description

The ESR process is as follows:

- Prepare a **Terms of Reference** for the ESR Report;
- Prepare a draft **Environmental Screening Review Report** that documents study results from technical experts for existing environmental conditions, potential effects and mitigation and management strategies;
- **Engage First Nations, government agencies, the public, and stakeholders** for feedback on the draft ESR Report findings; and
- Finalize **ESR Report** and integrate results in project procurement, final designs, construction plans, and operational guidance.



1

Terms of Reference to outline the types of information that TransLink will provide in the ESR Report.



2

Baseline and technical studies to describe existing natural and human environment conditions.



3

ESR Report to discuss project's potential benefits and effects.



4

Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Guidance to implement mitigation measures to avoid or reduce project-related potential adverse effects.

## Terms of Reference (TOR)

The TOR outlines the methods and scope of the ESR, including:

- Screening Elements to be studied and assessed, such as vegetation and wildlife resources;
- Screening Indicators to guide assessment of each Screening Element; and
- Plans for First Nations, public and stakeholder engagement in the review process.

The full draft TOR is available on the project website at [surreylangleyskytrain.ca](http://surreylangleyskytrain.ca).

## Environmental Screening Review Report

TransLink will prepare an ESR Report that incorporates feedback from First Nations, the public, and stakeholders, and is expected to include the following:

- Introduction including purpose, location, alternatives considered, and other relevant background information;
- Project description including the project components, activities, and schedule;
- Assessment scope and methodology;
- Assessment of each Screening Element: establishing baseline conditions, identifying potential project-related effects and proposed mitigation to avoid or minimize effects;
- Summary of engagement approaches and results with First Nations, the public and stakeholders;
- Summary of how input has been considered in developing mitigation measures;
- Conclusions regarding potential effects on Screening Elements;
- Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) framework describing performance objectives, best practices, and required content to implement mitigation; and
- Technical Appendices for applicable Screening Elements.

## Proposed Screening Elements

A number of sources helped to identify proposed Screening Elements, including TransLink's experience constructing and operating the Metro Vancouver SkyTrain system, subject matter experts, best management practices, and feedback from engagement to date (see figure below). The spatial (location) and temporal (time period) scopes of the assessment as well as the indicators that will be used to assess the effects, are contained in the draft TOR.

### Summary of Identified Draft Screening Elements for the SLS project



Traffic and Transportation

- Construction is expected to disrupt existing traffic flow
- Operations will change traffic patterns, access, and parking around new stations
- The project will affect access to some properties



Land Use

- The project will influence land use
- The project may affect designated agricultural and park lands along the corridor



Emergency Services

- Construction may affect access for emergency service providers
- Concerns over safety and security around stations



Archeology and Heritage

- Construction may adversely affect archaeological and heritage resources



Fisheries and Aquatics

- Construction and operation may affect freshwater fisheries and aquatic resources



Air Quality and GHGs

- During construction, the project may affect local air quality
- During operation, net reductions in emissions as a result of the project may benefit local and regional air quality



Contaminated Sites

- Possible encounters with contaminated or hazardous material during construction



Vegetation and Wildlife Resources

- Construction will affect vegetated areas and may affect wildlife and their habitat



Noise and Vibration

- Noise emissions during construction and operation may affect sensitive receptors
- Vibration from construction equipment and activities may affect sensitive receptors



Agricultural Lands

- Construction and operation may affect agricultural use, access, and infrastructure

The ESR will consider additional Screening Elements relevant to the project that may be identified during engagement if adverse project effects are likely.

## Next Steps

Once the TOR has been finalized, TransLink will complete the related baseline and technical studies. Draft findings of the ESR will be summarized and made available for public feedback in early 2020. Public comments will be considered in the final ESR Report.

Once project approval and funding are confirmed, TransLink will undertake a competitive selection process for detailed design and construction of the project. Once procurement is complete, a Construction Environmental Management Plan and operational guidance will help direct the next phases of the project.

For more information or to subscribe to the project eNewsletter, please visit [surreylangleyskytrain.ca](http://surreylangleyskytrain.ca).