

## **Transportation Committee**

### **Better Burnside bus service?**

Burnside merchants have often said that they have a hard time recruiting for jobs in the business park because of the lack of bus service into and out of the park. (People who would be working at contact centre, manufacturing or entry level jobs often lack cars so they need reliable bus service.) As of now, there has not been reliable bus service for Burnside employees. And because there are 15,000 people employed in or around the park, lack of adequate public transportation effects recruitment for all Burnside businesses. It also makes life a lot tougher for employees.

Transportation Committee members wondered whether the recently announced \$27 million Metro Transit service expansion included better bus service to Burnside. After research, committee members found out more details. The \$27 million service expansion does include better service to Burnside, contingent upon funding. By Nov. 2008, the peak frequency of the #52 bus will tentatively improve to 15 minutes each way. In 2009 to 2010, Metro Transit will take a hiatus from any service expansions into Burnside for a whole year while the new service garage, a linchpin of the whole expanded system, is built. During that year, they will plan routing and service improvements to Burnside with the help of the Greater Burnside Business Commission. This would include planned improvements to the #66 and #72 bus routes, which now end very shortly after the end of the standard work day hours. This has caused problems in the past for workers who work rotating, unusual or night shifts.

Plans to improve the service will resume after the service garage is built -- in 2010-2011. After that date, a new bus route involving Burnside is being planned. It will travel from Dartmouth Crossing, across the top of the park and all the way down to the Bridge bus terminal on Wyse Road. This new routing is being designed with maximum connectivity to other bus and ferry routes throughout the whole municipality in mind.