

Travel on the Sea to Sky during the winter games

“Know before you go” is the best advice for Sea to Sky travellers during the Olympics. Significantly higher than normal traffic is expected on all parts of the Sea to Sky so planning ahead and giving yourself extra time will be the key to stress free travel. The following two websites will provide you with Olympic travel information.

- http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/transportation_2010/index.html
- <http://www.vancouver2010.com/olympic-spectator-guide/transportation/know-before-you-go/>

The most important thing to know about is the Sea to Sky checkpoint (see reverse).

There will be other changes to lane operations for the Olympics. Existing two lane sections south of Squamish are being re-marked to provide three lanes of travel during the games. These section will operate as two lanes north in the morning and two lanes south in the evening.

At Porteau there will be southbound delays of 20-to-30 minutes in the mornings between 7:00 am and 7:45 am. This delay is needed for the passage of a train each morning and drivers, especially commuters are being advised to plan their trips accordingly.

Three lane sections of the highway will also operate a little differently than normal. In the north, between Whistler and Squamish, three lane sections will operate in a two lane north one lane south configuration throughout the Olympic period. South of Squamish the three lane sections will provide two northbound travel lanes in the mornings and two southbound in the afternoon.

Four lane sections of the highway will operate as normal throughout the games.

We're ready, are you?

Snowstorms, accidents and disabled vehicles are just some of the operational situations our games-time transportation team have been planning for. Our operations and maintenance teams will have significantly more equipment and staff stationed at key locations along the Sea to Sky highway including many more ploughs, large and small tow trucks, and even rapid response units so we can get a vehicle with a dead battery or one that's run out of fuel moving again. But on this subject we're asking for residents and visitors to do their part as well:

1. Please ensure your vehicle is properly equipped for winter driving conditions and if you have traction devices like chains or cables please make sure you know how to use them.
2. Allow yourself extra travel time so that you're not in a rush.
3. Car pool, take transit and travel outside of peak Olympic travel time if you can (6am-to-6pm)
4. Remember that there is absolutely no parking at Olympic venues and very limited parking in Whistler



Between Squamish and Whistler, three-lane sections will operate in a two-lane north, one-lane south configuration marked by temporary yellow lane markers.



Drivers should watch for Olympic lane signage (above and below).



Quick guide to the Sea to Sky checkpoint

During the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, there will be an increased demand for transportation, but a reduction in travel capacity. To ensure people can move efficiently during the Games, we need to reduce traffic by at least 30 per cent, particularly in key areas such as downtown Vancouver, the North Shore bridge crossings, the Sea to Sky Corridor and Whistler. For this reason, unnecessary or discretionary car trips are discouraged. For trips that must be made, travelers are encouraged to use alternate modes of transportation – many are available – and to travel outside peak times.

Additionally, public parking in Whistler will be significantly reduced for the month of February, yet Whistler's population is expected to increase from 10,000 to 55,000. Even a small increase in vehicle traffic could have a significant impact on the ability of Whistler residents, businesses, visitors and public transit to move efficiently. Additional vehicles driving around Whistler could impede the ability for Whistler locals and visitors to maintain their day to day activities, as well as prevent athletes and officials from getting to their events.

To manage traffic volumes going into or through Whistler and the resultant need for parking, Vancouver 2010 and its transportation partners, including the Resort Municipality of Whistler and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, will be issuing permits for travel north of Squamish between the hours of **6 am and 6 pm between February 11 and 28, 2010**. A traffic checkpoint will be in place at the Alice Lake turnoff on the Sea to Sky Highway to verify vehicles going into or through Whistler have the required checkpoint permit.

When is the traffic checkpoint in operation?

- February 11 to February 28 from 6 am to 6 pm daily – for northbound traffic only
- If travelling north of Squamish during these dates and hours, a permit must be displayed on your vehicle's windshield.
- Vehicles without a permit will be stopped at the checkpoint and turned around.
- Vehicles travelling outside the hours of 6 am to 6 pm will not need a permit, but should confirm their parking arrangements in advance.

How can I obtain a permit?

- Permit Issuing Offices are now open until February 28, 2010 to support the distribution process for those not captured in the Pemberton and Whistler mail out.
- Permits are fully transferable between vehicles and users.
- Applicants will be asked to verify their parking in Whistler to obtain a permit.



Vehicles/Persons Requiring a Permit:

- Property owners and their guests
- Tenants and their guests
- Employees and employers with secured parking
- Day skiers with secured parking
- Hotel guests with secured parking
- Work vehicles with small, side mounted or difficult to see markings
- Commercial and service vehicles (under 1 ton) with business north of Squamish
- VANOC marked or unmarked vehicles without a VAPP

Vehicles/Persons Not Requiring a Permit:

- Southbound traffic
- Any vehicle travelling outside of the specified dates and hours
- Vehicles equipped with a VAPP (Vehicle Access and Parking Permit – issued by VANOC)
- Vehicles equipped with an LVP (Local Vehicle Permit)
- Emergency responders, law enforcement in marked vehicles
- Various highway, municipal maintenance and essential services vehicles (snow removal, garbage/recycling, easily identifiable utility/work trucks, etc.)
- Commercial and service vehicles (over 1 ton) with business north of Squamish
- Buses (includes public transit, motor-coach, school bus) – motor coach is a vehicle with capacity for 12 or more passengers
- Government official vehicles identifiable at sight (DND, Police, etc.)
- Commercial passenger vehicle (i.e. generally taxis and limos) identified by a passenger transportation license plate that either has Passenger Carrier or Passenger Transportation on the plate
- Bicycles, Pedestrians, Motorcycles

Quick guide, cont'd.

Note to Commercial Carriers

Commercial carriers providing service directly into Whistler Resort will require a Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) Commercial Carrier Permit in order to drop passengers, stage vehicles and access various areas of the Resort.

For information on how to obtain a permit package, please visit www.whistler2010.com.

Permit Issuing Office locations:

Vancouver

450 West Broadway (at Cambie)

Dec. 14 to Feb. 11: Mon. through Sat., Noon to 8:00 pm

Feb. 12 to 28: CLOSED

Whistler

Municipal Hall 4325 Blackcomb Way

Dec. 14 to Feb. 11: Mon. through Fri., 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Feb. 12 to 28: Seven days a week, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Squamish

Squamish Volunteer Centre #2-40437 Tantalus Rd

Dec. 14 to Feb. 11: Mon. through Sat., Noon to 8:00 pm

Feb. 12 to 28: Seven days a week, 6:00 am to 6:00 pm

Pemberton

Old Community Ctr. 7567 Pemberton Meadows

Dec. 14 to Feb. 11: Mon. through Sat., Noon to 8:00 pm

Feb. 12 to 28: Seven days a week, Noon to 8:00 pm

Ensuring a successful transportation experience during the Games requires a coordinated effort between all 2010 Winter Games partners, as well as the residents and businesses in the Host Cities and surrounding communities.

For more detailed information, please visit travelsmart2010.ca. If you have any questions, please email info@vancouver2010.com.

Thank you for your assistance with this initiative. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we work together to stage an extraordinary event in 2010.