

# **APTA 2019 AdWheel Awards**

Category 2: Best Marketing and Communications Educational Effort

The Granville Escalator Replacement Program

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# The Granville Escalator Replacement Program Comprehensive Campaign

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## **Online Application**

#### **APTA 2019 AdWheel Awards**

Category 2: Best Marketing and Communications Educational Effort

# The Granville Escalator Replacement Program Comprehensive Campaign

**Contact**: Steve Vanagas

Vice President, Customer Communication & Public Affairs

email: steve.vanagas@translink.ca

**Company:** South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority (TransLink)

#400 - 287 Nelson's Court, New Westminster, BC V3L 0E7 Canada

#### **Background & Target Audience**

As part of the Expo Line Escalator Replacement Project, 37 escalators, in service since 1986-1990, will be replaced at 13 SkyTrain and West Coast Express stations. TransLink launched the first of these two projects at Granville Station where six escalators are being replaced, including the three longest escalators on the system. This critical investment into the system will keep escalators operating safely and reliably for customers well into the future. The project has significant impacts that needed to be clearly communicated to customers who use the station, to businesses in the station, and to the public.

#### Situation & Challenges

To minimize project costs, to schedule, and to ensure the safety of customers and construction crews, both the Seymour Street and Granville Street entrances to Granville Station were closed. The work would take up to two years to complete. It was vital for us to engage customers well in advance of changes and clearly explain how customers would access the station, use the elevators/escalators and support the businesses in corridor being closed for platform access. We used a variety of video, media and advertising tools to better explain the complexity of the project and provide both a history of the escalator and the replacement process.

### Strategy & Objective

Two of our corporate priorities are maintaining a state-of-good repair and improving the customer experience. We make significant investments to ensure the system is safe and reliable for customers now and in the future and we needed to find an engaging way of communicating this to our customers. By using the Granville Escalator Replacement Project, we were able to demonstrate how the work is planned, how it benefits customers and how it is part of our everyday business. To do this in a comprehensive way we created

the TransLink Maintenance and Repair Program to brand major capital upgrade projects and maintenance work. This program highlights TransLink's everyday commitment to improving transit service and customer experience, and reminds the customers of the funding that's put into keeping our system safe and functioning.

The creative was fun and educational rather than apologetic, positioning this work as a necessary part of our daily operations.

#### Results, Impact & Measurement

2-weeks in advance of the entrance closure we began sharing information with signage and an educational campaign to raise greater public awareness. Tactics included:

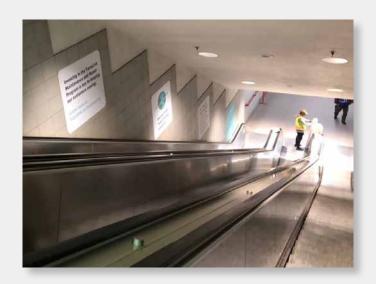
- Media event: 7 media tours, 13 media stories in print, radio and TV
- 3 local newspaper ads & NextBus SMS ad
- Video has 13.000+ views
- Clear wayfinding signage
- More staff on-site to assist customers
- Passenger Information screen messages in the station
- Targeted on-train announcements
- Materials shared at community events/outreach activities
- Unpaid digital promotions: Buzzer Blog, Facebook & Twitter with 5,000+ views
- Letters hand delivered to business where passenger traffic was re-directed
- Street-teams handed out educational postcards for multiple days
- New webpage created to house program and project information
- Low number of complaints

### Submission Reasoning

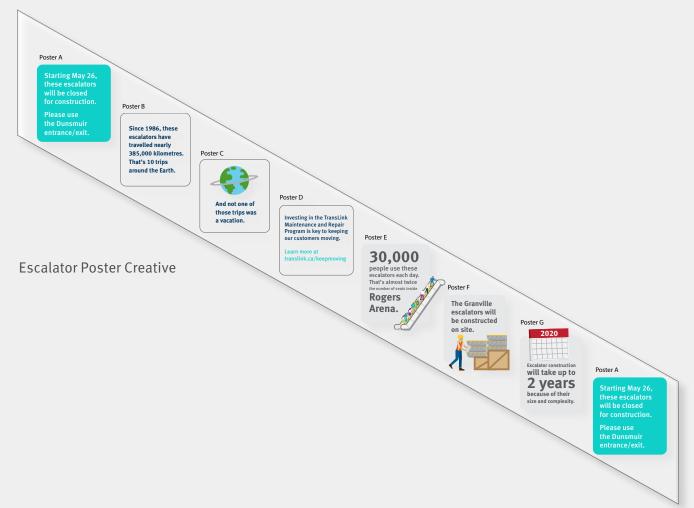
Building our reputation as a customer first service provider is our top priority. This results in us providing customers and stakeholders with information early and often, especially when it comes to work that impacts their daily travel. We did that in this project and the proof is in recent research statistics. In our recent reputation survey, results showed that the Granville Escalator project was in the top five projects that made customers feel more positive about TransLink when they heard about the initiative. According to an Ipsos Reid poll reported in BC Business Magazine in June, we've increased our ranking as one of BC's most loved brands by 16 spots or 24% in the last year. Projects like this contribute to that increase.

#### Print – Transit Environment

**Escalator Poster** 







#### Print – Transit Environment

Platform Poster



Large Platform Poster



Ad Creative Two



Postcard-back

Media Release

MEDIA RELEASE TRANS

#### TransLink launches Granville Escalator Replacement Project

Project will result in better safety and reliability for customers

May 8, 2018

VANCOUVER, BC — Starting May 26, TransLink will begin a major project to replace six aging escalators at Granville SkyTrain Station.

The escalators at Granville Station are 32 years old, and have been carrying 30,000 people per day. They are the longest set of escalators in Metro Vancouver. The confined location of the escalators requires them to be built on-site piece-by-piece.

The Seymour Street entrance to Granville Station will be closed for the duration of this work in order to ensure the safety of customers and construction crews, and minimize project cost and time. Customers will access the station from the escalators and elevator at the Dunsmuir Street entrance.

TransLink has taken steps to minimize the impact of this important work on our

- Additional faregates have been added to the Dunsmuir entrance to ensure it can handle increased capacity.
- Extensive proactive maintenance is being completed on the three escalators serving the Dunsmuir entrance to reduce the need for unplanned maintenance.
- Replacement parts have been pre-ordered to allow for faster repairs.
- Clear wayfinding signage will direct customers to the Dunsmuir entrance.
- Additional SkyTrain staff will be on site to assist customers.

Customers are asked to allow for extra travel time, or consider using Burrard or Stadium-Chinatown Station – a five to eight minute walk away. Every effort is being made to keep the station open for customers, but disruptions are expected. If multiple escalators at the Dunsmuir entrance aren't running, there may be circumstances where the station must be closed for safety reasons.

The Granville Station Escalator Replacement Project is part of the TransLink Maintenance and Repair Program:

TransLink is replacing and improving aging infrastructure across the system to keep customers safe, comfortable and moving across a reliable transit network every day.



- Granville Station is the first of 13 SkyTrain stations and select West Coast Express stations which will see the replacement of 37 escalators through the Expo Line Escalator Replacement Project.
- The Granville Station work is estimated to cost \$14.5 million, and is funded in part through the Government of Canada and the Province of B.C.
- Improvements to the other 12 stations are anticipated to begin rolling out in

Kevin Desmond, CEO, TransLink "Our SkyTrain system is more than 30 years old and the time has come to make significant investments in our infrastructure to ensure we can keep moving our customers safely and reliably. That's why this project, along with the other 97 active projects included in the TransLink Maintenance and Repair program are so important.

\*Once this project is complete, the more than 30,000 customers who travel through Granville Station on weekdays will use escalators that are more robust and dependable. We know this will inconvenience people in the short term, but we thank our customers for their patience while we complete this important work.

Video: Granville Escalator Replacement Project

#### Media contact:

TransLink Media Relations C: (778) 375-7788 E: media@translink.ca

TransLink is Metro Vancouver's regional transportation authority, and is the first North American transportation authority to be responsible for the planning, financing and managing of all public transit in addition to major regional roads and bridges.

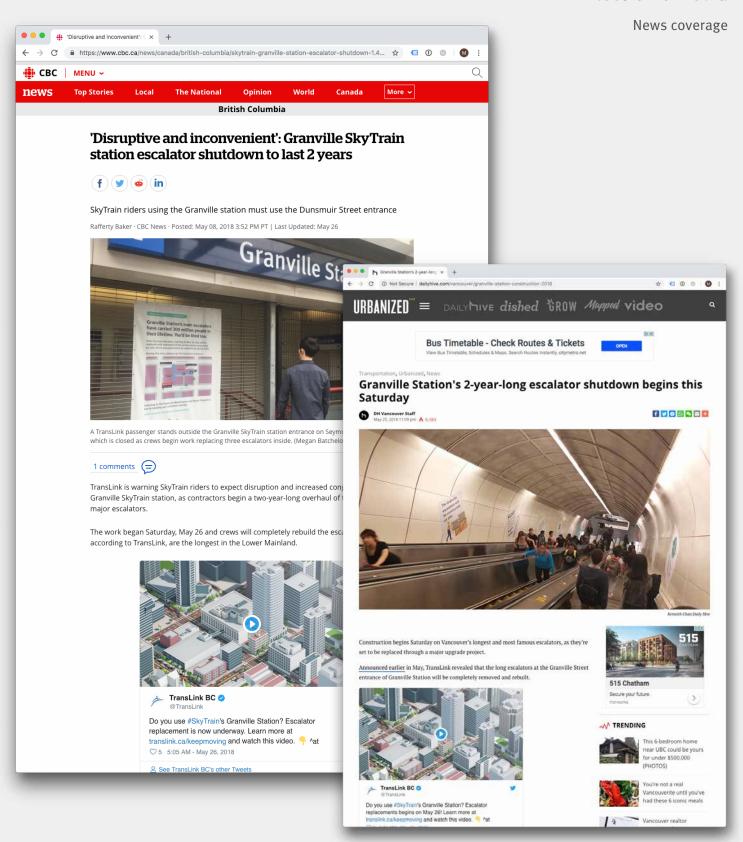




LCD Screen creative



#### Electronic Media





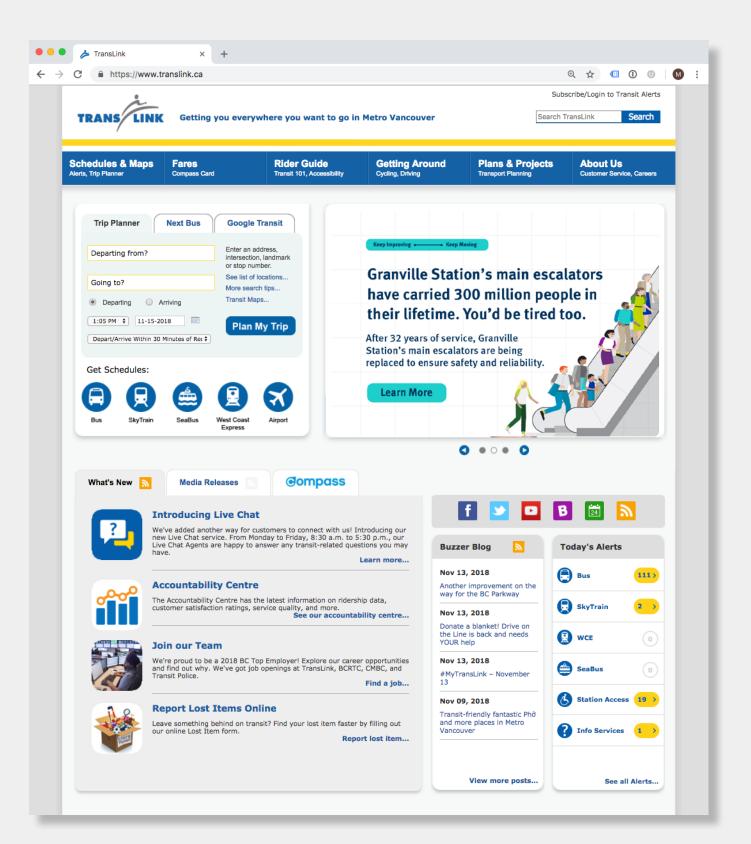
Digital banner ad creative



e-news banner ad creative

#### Electronic Media

#### Website Homepage





Watch the video at: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-PVr62UDuY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-PVr62UDuY</a>

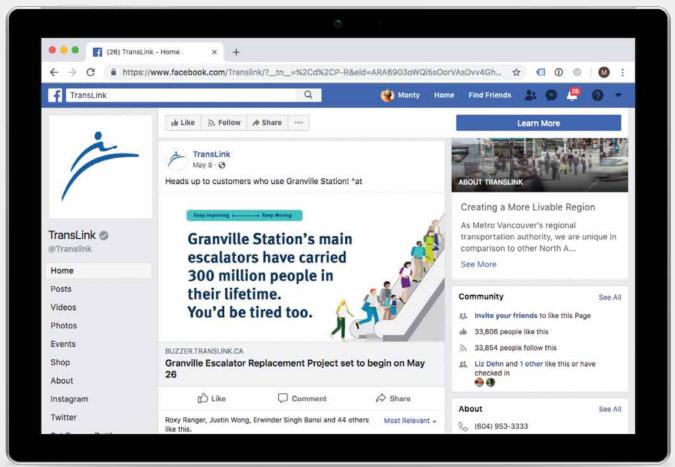
#### Social Media

Twitter





Instagram



Facebook

# Thank You!

