Passenger Transportation Board
MOVING FORWARD, TOGETHER

Inter-city bus

Inter-city bus operators must have a passenger transportation licence with special authorization (SA). Inter-city bus services operate between cities on a schedule, over regular routes and charge per person fares.

Start an inter-city bus service

If you are applying for a licence, you must show the Board that you are:

- a fit and proper person to provide the proposed service; and
- capable of providing the service

You must demonstrate that:

- there is a public need for your proposed service; and
- if you are granted a licence, your service will promote sound economic conditions in the B.C. passenger transportation industry.

Make sure you understand the application process. It explains how the Board uses the evidence you provide in your application to make a decision.

Start or expand an inter-city bus service

Inter-city bus operators who want to start or expand an inter-city bus service to a new route can use the new inter-city bus application checklist.

Checklist

New inter-city bus licence or route(s)

Before you apply

- Understand commercial vehicle and safety information about commercial passenger transportation vehicles
- Obtain a National safety code certificate (NSC)

Forms

- Special authorization licence application (Registrar form)
- Signing authority (Registrar form)
- Inter-city bus authorization application summary(235 KB)
- Inter-city bus route worksheet(659 KB) (for each route you are going to add or change)
- Declarations & consent(573 KB)

Attachments

- Business plan
- Financial information

    - All Applicants: Cash flow projections (36 months) and income statements
    - Incorporated Companies: Balance sheet
    - Sole Proprietors or Partnerships: Personal net worth statements

- Resumés, criminal record checks and business registration documents
- Public need indicators
- Sample ICB time schedule

Final step

- Submit your completed application package to the Registrar's Office at CPV@gov.bc.ca.

Change an inter-city bus (ICB) licence

If you are applying to change a licence, you must show the Board that you are:

- a fit and proper person to provide the proposed service; and
- capable of providing the service

You must demonstrate that:

- there is a public need for your proposed service; and

- if the change is granted, it will promote sound economic conditions in the B.C. passenger transportation industry.

Make sure you understand the application process. It explains how the Board uses the evidence you provide in your application to make a decision.

Transfer a licence

If you hold a B.C. passenger transportation licence, you can apply to transfer your passenger transportation licence to another business entity.

Amend an ICB licence

ICB operators must apply to the Board to amend their terms and conditions of licence, including operation on new routes or eliminating routes or route points. They cannot apply to amend terms and conditions labelled “legislative requirements”.

Add a route

ICB operators must apply to the Board to expand their routes of operation. ICB operators seeking to operate on a new route must submit all items listed under the New Inter-city Bus Checklist.

Reduce or stop inter-city bus service

The Board’s Inter-City Bus Minimum Route Frequency policy will take effect on the expiration of the ICB COVID-19 policy on December 31, 2023. The policy changed licensee requirements for reducing or stopping inter-city bus service. There will be a period of 90 days to transition to the updated MRF policy.

Operating an inter-city bus service

Minimum route frequency

Inter-city bus (ICB) operators must adhere to their license's minimum route frequency requirements.

The Board's Inter-City Bus Minimum Route Frequency policy will take effect on the expiration of the ICB COVID-19 policy on December 31, 2023. The policy changed licensee requirements for reducing or stopping inter-city bus service. There will be a period of 90 days to transition to the updated MRF policy.

Terms and conditions

The Board sets terms and conditions of passenger transportation licences when an application is approved.

Inter-city bus operator terms and conditions include things like:

- Schedules
- Routes
- Pick-up and drop-off points
- Minimum route frequencies (daily, weekly, month)

As an ICB operator, you must also follow:

- the Passenger Transportation Act
- the Passenger Transportation Regulation
- Board Rates Rules.

Fitness reviews

The Board may review licensee fitness at any time to make sure licensees meet standards.

Related topics:

- Application process
- How the Board makes a decision
- Urgent public need
- Operating with a licence
- Transfer a licence