



Your **Cycling** Connection

604.558.2002  
info@bikehub.ca  
bikehub.ca



March 17, 2018

To: Maple Ridge Active Transportation Advisory Committee  
<clerks@mapleridge.ca>

Re: ***Communities on the Move;***  
**request for endorsement**

Dear Active Transportation Advisory Committee members,

I'm writing to you today about *Communities on the Move*.

[Communities on the Move](#) is a vision of active, connected, complete and healthy communities across British Columbia. This vision, with its underlying goals and supporting recommendations for increased funding and supportive public policies, is an initiative of the BC Alliance for Healthy Living. It aims to support British Columbians around the province in choosing healthier modes of transportation such as transit, walking, cycling, and ride-sharing.

Please find attached as well as in the link the [Communities on the Move Declaration](#). It explains in more detail the underlying values, and that the goal is to, within ten years, make it safe, easy and enjoyable for everyone to get around through active transportation, which includes the use of wheelchairs.

### **Health benefits of active transportation**

The British Medical Journal last year published the results of a large [study](#)<sup>1</sup> that showed overwhelming evidence that active transportation - especially cycling - has a significant positive impact on public health. A good summary of the study can be found [here](#)<sup>2</sup>.

[Maple Ridge's Community Health Profile](#)<sup>3</sup> shows that the health of Maple Ridge's population is worse than average in the Metro Vancouver region (especially with regard to obesity and mental health). These health outcomes correlate with the modes of transportation used: communities with higher rates of active transportation tend to have on average better health outcomes.

---

<sup>1</sup> Association between active commuting and incident cardiovascular disease, cancer, and mortality: prospective cohort study, Carlos A Celis-Morales et al, Institute of Cardiovascular and Medical Sciences, University of Glasgow

<sup>2</sup> PubMed Health article: Cycling commuters have lower rates of heart disease and cancer

<sup>3</sup> www.myhealthmycommunity.org

## **Equitable transportation for all**

A strong commitment to equitable transportation for all benefits certain segments of the population that face barriers to physical activity, such as Aboriginal peoples, new immigrants, people with disabilities, and those with low incomes and low levels of education. For many within these groups, the availability of low cost transportation options can also mean the difference between being employed or unemployed.

## **Vision Zero**

Safer roads and improved options for active transportation will help us work towards British Columbia's goal to have the safest roads in North America by 2020: [Moving to Vision Zero: Road Safety Strategy](#).

## **Climate change: reduction of greenhouse gas emissions**

By 2020, the BC Government has committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 33%, compared to 2007 levels. This target has been adopted by the City of Maple Ridge. The latest available data for [Maple Ridge](#) (2012) show that our community is on track to see increasing rather than decreasing greenhouse gas emissions. While emissions from buildings and solid waste are showing a downward trend, this is not the case for emissions from transportation. About 60% of total emissions in Maple Ridge originates from transportation. A strong commitment to supporting and encouraging active transportation will help achieve the required reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

## **Supporting OCP policies**

The Communities on the Move Declaration aligns with various Maple Ridge OCP policies that demonstrate a commitment to place an emphasis on non-automobile travel, such as:

- 7 - 1 *Maple Ridge will encourage the development of a safe, integrated, multi-modal transportation system based on the long-term interests of the community, the economy, and the environment.*
- 7 - 4 *Maple Ridge will place an emphasis on increasing choice for non-automobile transportation modes.*
- 7 - 11 *Maple Ridge will support initiatives that reduce traffic demand and automobile trips such as:
  - f) *encouraging transit use, bicycle use, and pedestrian travel;**
- 7 - 14 *Maple Ridge will make road safety a priority in the planning, operation and maintenance of the road network through programs and institutionalized approaches to transportation.*

Transit:

- 7 - 20 *Maple Ridge will consult and work in cooperation with the appropriate government authorities:
  - a) *in planning for new urban areas to ensure provision of convenient routing and appropriate facilities;*
  - b) *to promote efficient transit services;*
  - c) *to provide safe pedestrian access to transit facilities;**

*d) to support an increased range of bus services to meet the needs of Maple Ridge residents;*

**Request for recommendation to endorse**

Many municipalities in B.C. already [endorse](#) Communities on the Move.

Our Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows HUB Cycling Committee kindly requests the Active Transportation Committee to submit the following recommendation to Maple Ridge Mayor and Council:

That Maple Ridge City Council adopt two resolutions:

1. That the City of Maple Ridge endorses the Communities on the Move Declaration published on the BC Alliance for Healthy Living's website.
2. That the City of Maple Ridge adds its name to the growing list of endorsers of the Communities on the Move Declaration.

With kind regards,

Jackie Chow  
HUB Cycling  
Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Chapter

JC/IC/BB/JL/AC

Attached: *Communities on the Move Declaration*

# Communit<sup>></sup>es ON THE MOVE



We envision that in **10** years  
neighbourhoods across BC  
will be **connected** by transportation systems that make it  
*easy, safe & enjoyable* to get around.

