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October 15, 2018

ATTN: Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, Legislative Assembly of British Columbia

Re: HUB Cycling submission for BC Budget Consultations

HUB Cycling is a charitable organization that works to get more people cycling for transportation more often through education, action, and events. We are Metro Vancouver's leader in making cycling an attractive choice for everyone. We have over 2,000 members, 40,000 direct contacts, and ten active local committees across the region.

Time for fair investment in cycling

Cycling is the fastest growing mode of transportation in both Metro Vancouver and across British Columbia. More than 40% of Metro Vancouverites¹ want to cycle for transportation but are hesitant because there is not a connected network of safe infrastructure. HUB Cycling encourages the Province to increase investment in cycling infrastructure and education to assist the Province in reaching its goals in the areas of Transportation, Climate Action, Poverty Reduction, and ensuring an innovative and sustainable public health system².

As municipalities continue to prioritize and implement cycling facilities in their respective jurisdictions, provincial funding is not in sync with current demand. In 2018, municipalities across BC competed for a paltry \$6.1 million dollars of Bike BC³ funding, resulting in an investment of less than \$1.30 per person in 2018. By contrast, places such as the Netherlands and Copenhagen invest approximately \$44⁴ and \$58⁵ in cycling per person per year, showing that a significant increase in funding is needed in BC in order to ensure municipalities complete their cycling networks in the coming decades. In Metro Vancouver, TransLink's 2040 vision of having 15% of all trips less than 8 km made by bicycle will likely not be achieved without an increased funding commitment from the Province.

Importantly, cycling infrastructure is vastly more affordable than motor vehicle and public transit infrastructure; however, it still demands its fair share of funding to complete cycling

¹ TransLink (2011). [Regional Cycling Strategy](#).

² [BC Ministry of Health Service Plan](#)

³ [Support for cycling projects in B.C. communities](#)

⁴ The Guardian. "[Where are the most cycle friendly cities in the world](#)". 2016

⁵ City of Copenhagen. "[Cykelregnskab 2016](#)" (Bicycle Account 2016). English version not yet published. Numbers include national, municipal and private funding.

networks so that people can safely and conveniently travel by bicycle. In order to achieve this objective, HUB Cycling supports the BC Cycling Coalition's call for accelerated provincial investment in cycling at a level of \$100 million per year over 10 years as well as the creation of a comprehensive Active Transportation Strategy. This strategy must include designated financial and staff resources for improved infrastructure and systemic public education, such as Everyone Rides Grade 4-5⁶ school cycling training in all elementary schools.

The return on investment is high

Unlike investments in motor vehicle infrastructure, investments in cycling provide a significant return on investment. When governments invest in safe infrastructure and increase their cycling mode-shares, they save in healthcare, pollution-related and congestion costs, insurance, as well as police and ambulance services. Research from Denmark suggests that the cost-benefit ratio for every dollar invested in cycling infrastructure is at least six to one⁷.

“ In other words, for every dollar spent on transportation cycling, governments receive approximately six dollars back in savings in healthcare and other areas. ”

According to Statistics Canada, the top five biggest killers in Canada are cancer, heart disease, stroke, respiratory diseases and accidents⁸. Encouraging active transportation reduces the prevalence of all of these illnesses, saving governments money as a result. A recent study in the *British Medical Journal* followed 264,000 people in Britain over 5 years. They found that those who cycled to work had a 40 percent lower risk of heart disease, cancer and overall mortality. Furthermore, research from the Netherlands also suggests that cycling investments save 6,500 premature deaths each year⁹. These studies, among others, clearly show that increasing investment in safer streets would be a financially responsible transportation strategy, in addition to known health and environmental benefits.

Conclusion: Towards increased investment in cycling infrastructure

In Metro Vancouver, provincial funding for municipal cycling projects is in short supply, resulting in stiff competition for funding to improve cycling networks and implement city cycling

⁶ HUB Cycling: [Everyone Rides Grade 4-5 Summary](#)

⁷ Gossling, S. and Choi, A. "Transport Transitions in Copenhagen: Comparing the Costs of Cars and Bicycles. *Ecological Economics* 113 (2015), p 106-113.

⁸ Statistics Canada. "[The 10 Leading Causes of Death 2011](#)". Accessed Sep 22

⁹ Fishman, E., et al. "Dutch cycling: Quantifying the health and related economic benefits. *American Journal of Public Health* 105 (2015), p13-15.

strategies. Last year, the cities of Burnaby, Maple Ridge, Surrey, and Vancouver, as well as the District of North Vancouver applied for Bike BC cost-sharing funding but were unsuccessful due to limited funds. As HUB Cycling has identified, Metro Vancouver’s cycling network is full of gaps¹⁰—or areas lacking cycling infrastructure—and safe, connected infrastructure is needed now, more than ever before to #UnGapTheMap. As such, HUB Cycling encourages the Province to increase investment in cycling to ensure environmentally and economically healthier communities, assisting the Province in reaching its goals for Climate Action, Poverty Reduction, and ensuring an innovative and sustainable public health system. In addition to increased funding, the Province should move forward with modernizing the Motor Vehicle Act and cycling education for children and newcomers to improve safety and encourage more people to ride. Lastly, HUB Cycling encourages the Province to undertake its own analysis in order to understand the value of benefits associated with increased investments in active transportation.

For more information please contact:

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¹⁰ HUB Cycling: [Connecting the region's cycling network to build a future for bikes in Metro Vancouver](#).