

June 8, 2021

Mayor and Council, City of Coquitlam

RE: Colony Farm pipeline construction is an opportunity to connect Coquitlam residents with the Port Mann Bridge

We respectfully ask that the City of Coquitlam consider prioritizing the creation of a safe, smooth-surfaced and separated cycling route through Colony Farm to connect to the Port Mann Bridge. The Trans Mountain Pipeline construction has raised the issue of gaps in Coquitlam cycling routes and the need for a safe connection to Surrey and New Westminster.

Construction has blocked the West Perimeter Trail in Colony Farm Regional Park, recently constructed by Metro Vancouver Parks, with no provision to get around the blockage. There is little information about the timeline of the closure and no detour instructions. (Appendix C) The trail is now completely fenced off, including the path under the Mary Hill Bypass blocking access to the multi-use pathways (MUPs) on United Blvd and the Port Mann Bridge.

These trails were used by many people walking and biking to connect to United Blvd and the Port Mann Bridge MUPs. This is an informal and 'desired' route and is shown on the Translink 2021 Cycling Map (see Appendix B). We note that this is not an official route, passes through many jurisdictions, crosses private land, skirts the rail line and goes through a tunnel under the Mary Hill Bypass (Appendix F). Still, there **is no alternative route** for people cycling who are not comfortable riding with fast-moving traffic and heavy vehicles.

We ask that this route be made an official and viable connection. A signed route from the southwest corner of Colony Farm Regional Park passing under the Mary Hill Bypass and connecting to the United Boulevard and Port Mann Bridge multi-use paths would benefit active transportation users of all ages & abilities and make connections to many important destinations, including people's workplaces.

We think that the current disruption of this route by Trans Mountain Pipeline construction is **an opportunity** to make this route official. Once the pipeline is in place, the route area could be updated to a signed cycling route from the PoCo Traboulay Trail, səmiq'wəʔelə (Sumiqwuelu/Riverview) and Colony Farm, providing a good connecting route to the United Boulevard and the Port Mann Bridge MUPs. We feel this would allow the Trans Mountain Pipeline the opportunity to create something of value for the community and correct this serious gap.

We recognize that there are many jurisdictions involved; Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Trans Mountain Pipeline, Metro Vancouver Parks - Colony Farm, City of Coquitlam, and səmiq'wəʔelə. We respectfully ask the City of Coquitlam to meet with these jurisdictions on our behalf to ensure a safe active transportation corridor suitable for all ages and abilities, and offer our participation in these discussions.

Regarding Unsatisfactory / Unsafe Alternate Routes:

Signage at the blockage states, “Plan an alternate route.” (Appendix D) We have tried to get around the obstructed route and devised a few routes, none of which are presently satisfactory and are not signed as detours. These alternate routes could provide a route to the MUPs without going through Colony Farm but would only be viable if these safety improvements were made:

1. Mary Hill Bypass paved shoulder - used by cycling commuters but is not comfortable for all ages and abilities as traffic is heavy and speeds often exceed 90 km/h. The BC Active Transportation Design Guidelines indicate that type of road environment requires protected cycling infrastructure.
2. Mary Hill Bypass Path - From Shaughnessy Street, a dirt singletrack path parallels the Mary Hill Bypass along the Fraser River to Maquabeak Park and to the United Blvd and Port Mann MUPs. This narrow path is often flooded or muddy. According to the Trans Mountain Pipeline signage, we can expect intermittent blockage to Maquabeak Park as well. We understand that a multi-use path is being planned to replace this path; if so, this needs to be built without delay so that people cycling are not forced to use the highway to get past the Trans Mountain Pipeline construction.
3. səmiqʷəʔelə (Riverview) - Cape Horn Ave – United Blvd/Lougheed Overpass. A multi-use path runs through much of səmiqʷəʔelə (Riverview) and this route could continue with signage along Holly and Cape Horn Ave, over the United/Lougheed overpass onto United Blvd to connect to the MUPs. However, there is not a safe provision for people cycling on this route; Cape Horn has no cycling infrastructure nor does the Lougheed overpass or United Blvd. (Appendix G) Many safety improvements could make this a viable route:
 - A safe crossing from Cape Horn Ave to the west side of United Blvd.
 - A wider shared path on the overpass to provide passing space for people walking and cycling.
 - Higher fencing on the overpass to safeguard people cycling.
 - A safe crossing is needed where Lougheed Highway turns off the freeway to get onto United Blvd heading east as a one-way. Note that between this latter intersection to the United Blvd multi-use path, there is a wide enough easement to create a safe and separated two-way cycle path.

Clearly a safe connection is needed to the Port Mann Bridge and the United Boulevard MUPs. The Trans Mountain Pipeline construction has blocked the path many people cycling and walking used to follow to get from Coquitlam to these trailheads and amplified the need for a safe active transportation route. We respectfully ask that you consider these needs and implement safe cycling infrastructure for people walking and cycling.

Sincerely,

Andrew Hartline and Colin Fowler - Co- Chairs, Tri-Cities Local Committee, HUB Cycling email: tri-cities@bikehub.ca

Leon Lebrun - Trails Society of BC email: trailsbc.ca

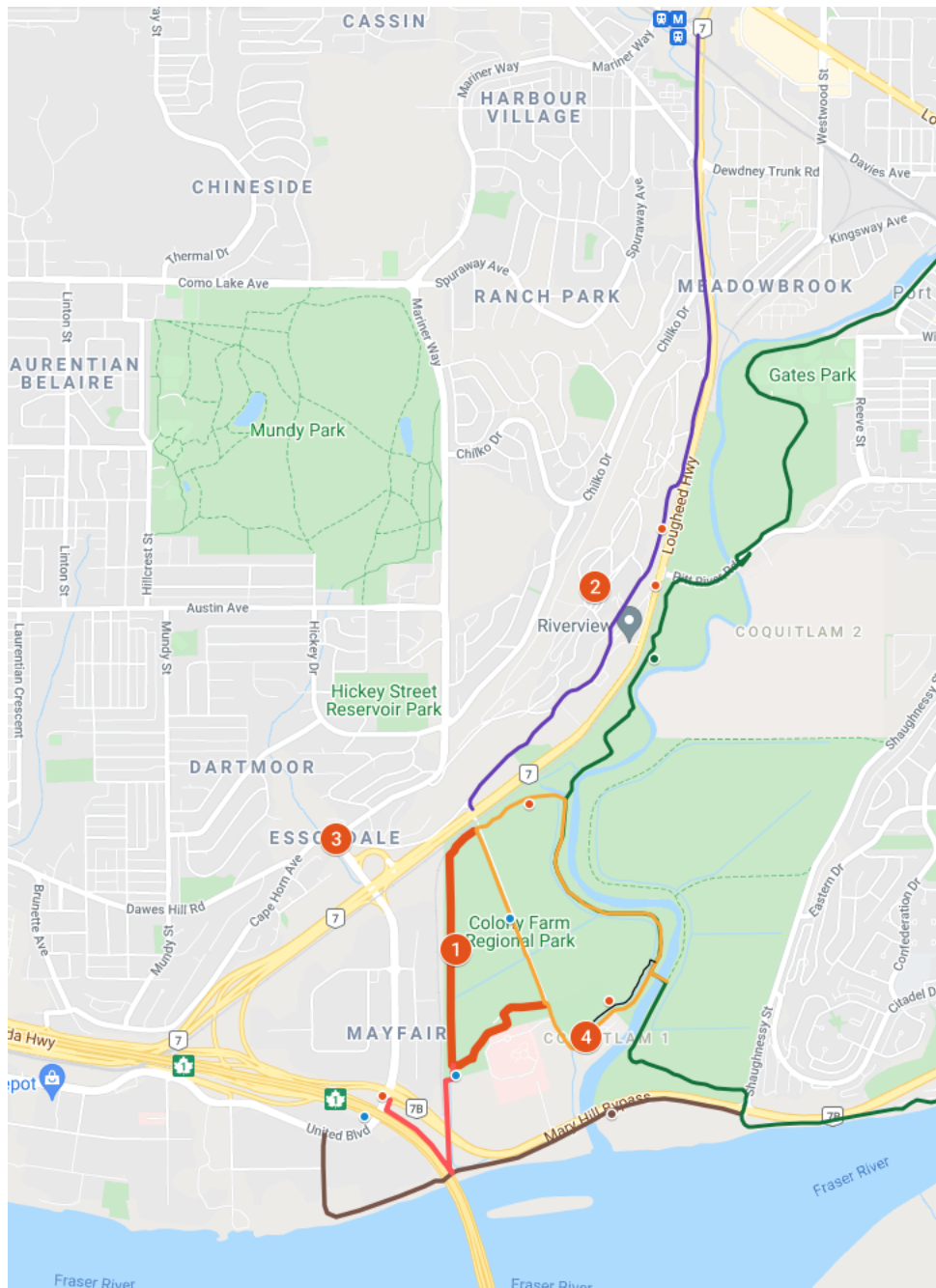
Colleen MacDonald - Let's Go Biking letsgobiking.net email: colleenmacd@gmail.com

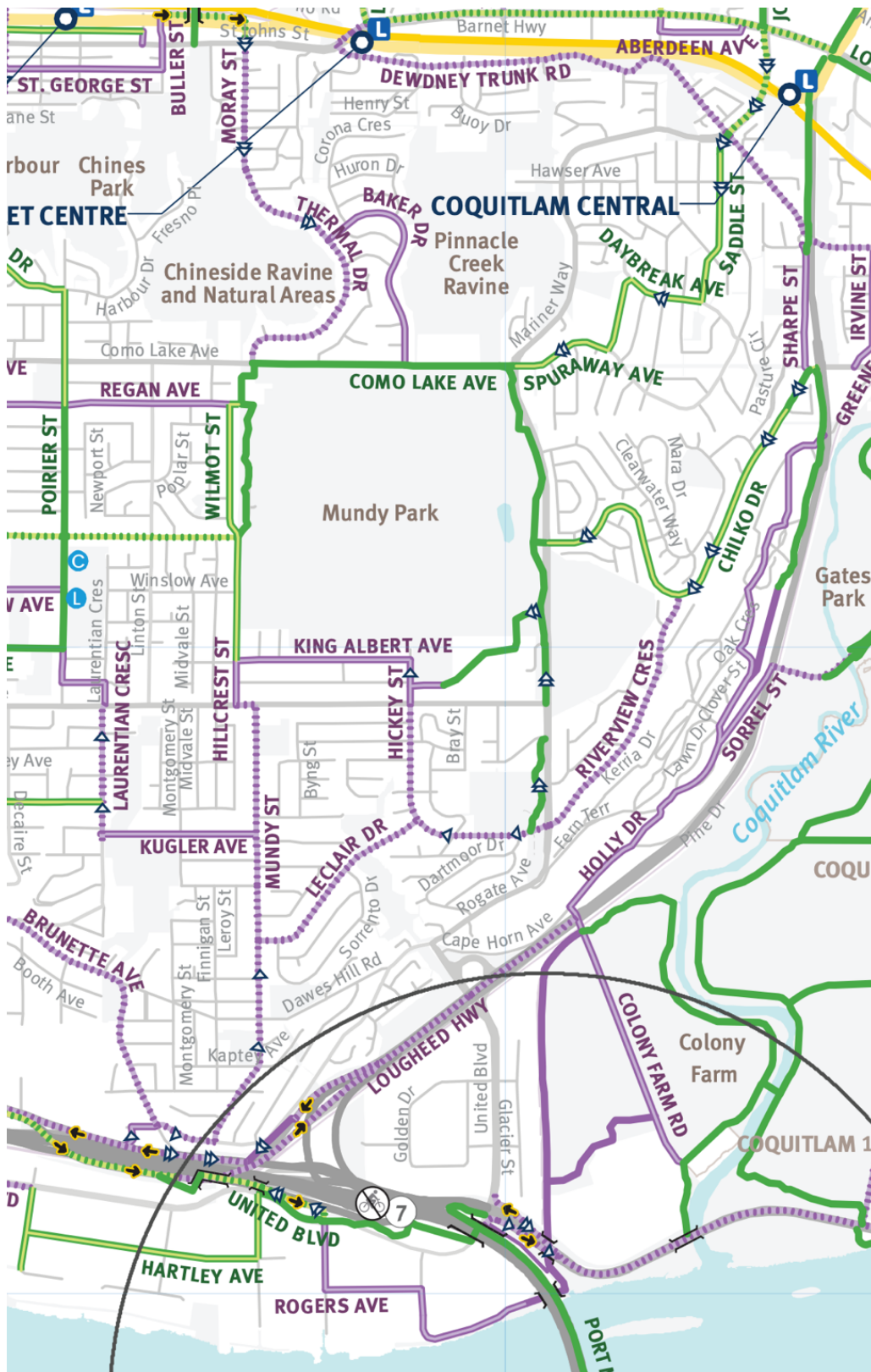
Copies sent to: Metro Vancouver Parks, Trans Mountain Pipeline, Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (MOTI), səmiqʷəʔelə (Riverview), Translink, City of Port Coquitlam, Burke Mountain Naturalists, Colony Farm Park Association

About HUB Cycling

HUB Cycling is a charitable not for profit organization that has spent over 22 years removing barriers to cycling in Metro Vancouver, while cultivating the health, environmental, and economic benefits that active transportation can bring. HUB has educated thousands of people, motivated thousands more, and championed improvements that [#UnGapTheMap](https://www.bikehub.ca/#UnGapTheMap) to create a connected cycling network. HUB Cycling's mission is to get more people cycling more often. HUB Cycling has close to 3,000 members and more than 45,000 direct supporters. HUB Cycling has 10 volunteer committees across Metro Vancouver that encourage cycling for all ages and abilities (AAA) in municipalities across Metro Vancouver. For more information, visit bikehub.ca.

Appendix A – Map of Coquitlam Cycling Connection Gap





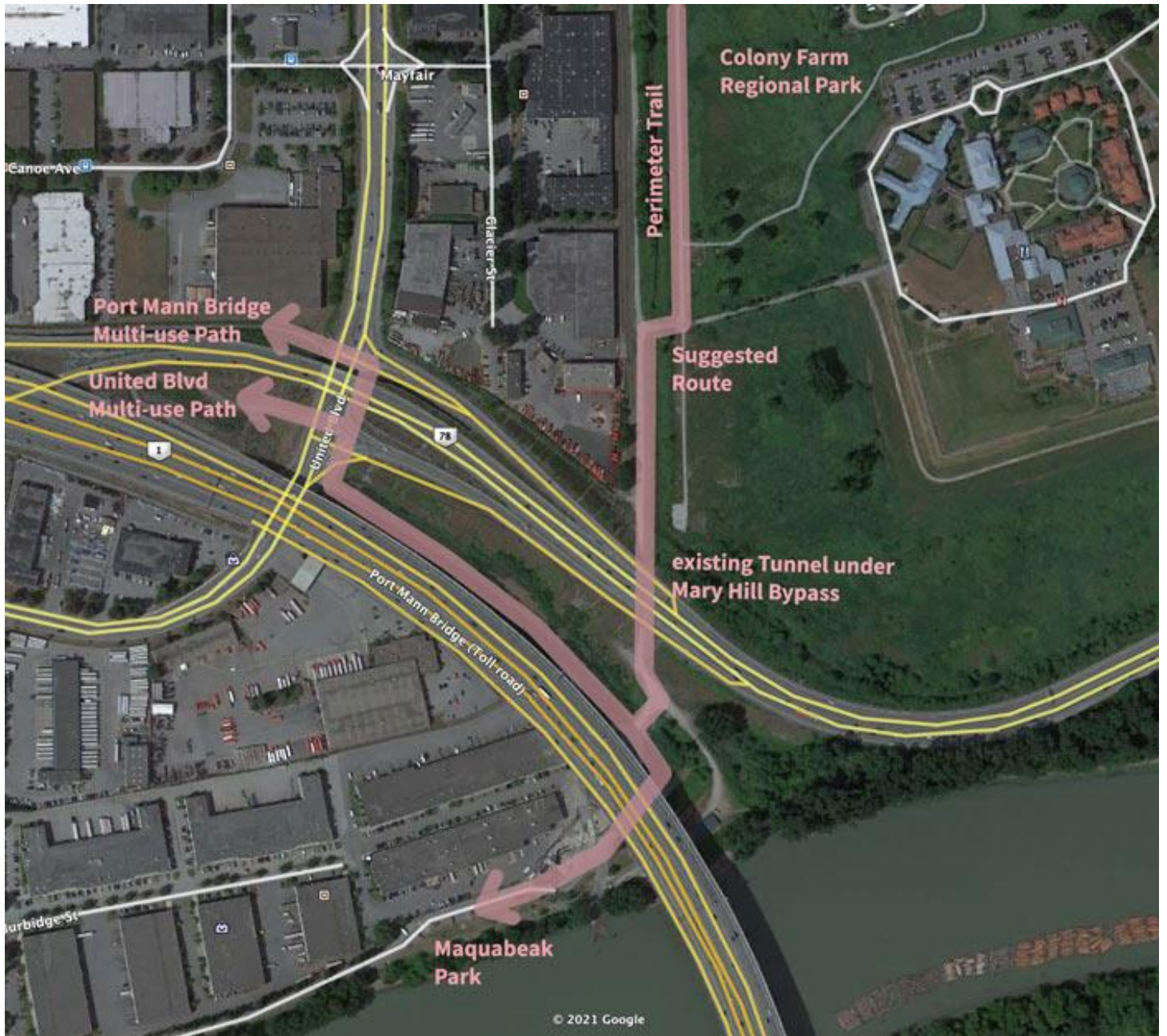
Appendix C - Trail closed signage



Appendix D - “Plan an alternate route” (Note - no route suggestions are made)



Appendix E – Suggested and Desired Route



Appendix F - existing tunnel under Mary Hill ByPass



Appendix G - United Boulevard/Lougheed Hwy overpass - narrow path/low railings

