

## Vancouver-UBC Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 18:30-20:00

Meeting held online via Zoom web meeting

Attendees: Jeff (Chair), Anthony (co chair), Michael A, Keith, Lisa, Stan, Tassillie, Adrian, Aidan, Bobo,

Bruce, Clark, Dan, Enzo, Eric, Julie, Katy, Mac, Mike T, Mike V, Philippe, Ron, Sam, Suzanne,

Vincent, Lucy, Stuart (27)

1. Introductions and welcome to new members.

2. Agenda: Approved

3. Minutes from April: Approved

Key Action Items outstanding from last meeting					
1	Everyone	<ul> <li>Please use BikeMaps.org to document hazards, near misses, collisions, bike thefts.         Also make sure to report infrastructure issues to 311, @CityOfVancouver on         Twitter, or the VanConnect app to have them addressed by the City. You can ask for a call back to ensure your issue has been addressed. Ongoing     </li> </ul>			
2	Anthony	Write up the assessment ride report for the ride at UBC <b>Pending</b>			

- Announcements (see <u>bikehub.ca</u> updated regularly and our <u>Local Committee wiki</u>
- This was our second Local Committee meeting by web meeting. We have switched to Zoom, and plan to continue using this platform for the near future. Note that we will send out a new meeting ID and password each month in the agenda email, we do not plan to reuse meeting IDs and passwords.
- Refer to https://bikehub.ca/ regularly for up to date news
- HUB Go By Bike Week is May 25th to 31st. Log your trips, attend a web seminar, and much more

## 4. Updates from Working Group Leads.

Contact Jeff (Vancouver@bikehub.ca) if you are interested in joining and/or forming a working group.

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION			
Updates from Working Groups					
Assessment Rides (Jeff and Anthony)	<ul> <li>Assessment rides are reviews of existing or potential bike routes within the City of Vancouver (CoV). Reports are generated and posted on our wiki. Our reports are used to educate municipal officials and provide them with recommendations. Assessment rides at UBC held, report is in progress, but other things are taking priority right now</li> </ul>	Anthony to bring back a draft of UBC Assessment ride report			
Cycling in Parks (Lisa)	<ul> <li>Regular communication ongoing with Park Board staff. Push continues for improvements at Kits Beach Park.</li> <li>Cycling in Stanley Park getting lots of attention.         Communication ongoing with Park Board staff on future of road reallocations within Stanley park. See item 6, below.     </li> </ul>				
Arbutus Greenway (Stan)	<ul> <li>Former railway line from the Fraser River through to 1st Ave at Granville St. Easy grade through some very scenic areas with easy access to shops and services.</li> </ul>				

	Communicating with CoV AG project office to coordinate review of next steps with issuing of contract for detailed design services for the first two sections
Urban Cargo and Delivery (Sam)	<ul> <li>This working group is looking at promoting the adoption of cargo bikes for last km delivery services, focusing on enabling policies as well as infrastructure issues.</li> <li>There is opportunity for more use of cargo bikes during and after the pandemic; we will carry on the discussion with the City on promoting their use</li> </ul>
Broadway Subway (Jeff)	Construction updates being received from project office and published through our social media feeds. Work underway on Arbutus near Broadway relating to utility relocations in preparation for subway station construction. Expect some detours on Arbutus, and on the Greenway.
East Van Greenway (Clark)	Continuing to monitor CoV progress on a proposed N-S greenway in the NE quadrant.

## 5. Deep Dive Topic – Cycling during and after the Pandemic (Jeff)

- Our major theme of this meeting was cycling during and after the pandemic. We reviewed efforts so
  far to reallocate road space for active transportation (which is not the same as closing roads). This
  has included discussions with the City, Park Board staff, media, and the Vancouver Public Space
  Network, as well as many HUB Cycling members and supporters
- We discussed both temporary changes, and longer-term initiatives
- The meeting presentation includes slides from the City staff presentation to Council on this subject
- The temporary bidirectional bike lane on Beach leading to Stanley Park is seeing heavy use.
- The Park Board continues to refine the road use changes within Stanley Park. People cycling have generally received this initiative well, with lots of positive comments.
- We have promoted guiding principles of acting quickly, creating temporary lanes, focusing on known congestion spots, and giving priority to temporary lanes that will also benefit people walking. See the meeting presentation for a list of 15 locations proposed for temporary lane reallocations
- Themes from the discussion at the meeting, with comments in brackets:
  - This web platform works better. (we will continue with Zoom)
  - Some frustration expressed with the slow implementation of temporary road reallocations
  - Support expressed for a dozen more greenways, throughout the City, based on the original greenway plan
  - The heavy use of the Arbutus Greenway highlights the need for more north-south and eastwest greenways with no motor vehicle traffic
  - o Is the City applying for the federal grant money for active transportation infrastructure related to Covid responses? (we will ask when we meet with the City, and report back)
  - What has been the hold up in temporary reallocations? Council seemed supportive when the motion from Councillor Dominato was brought forward. Is it staff? Cost? (we will discuss with Engineering staff and report back)
  - Do they need council to vote on this (No, apart from funding approvals. The City Engineer, Lon, has the power to reallocate road space under new rules adopted a few years back by council)
  - Concern was expressed about bikes being kept off the Stanley Park Seawall permanently (Our Cycling in Parks group is talking to PB staff about this concern, and will report back)
  - o Interest expressed in a grid of residential street bike routes, to spread the benefits throughout the City, and not just in the West End.
  - The usage of the reallocated lanes is high, and this is without any tourists, these are all residents
  - o Concern was expressed about the chicanes in Stanley Park, with requests for them to be

- removed as a crash hazard.
- Discussion about a more extreme position of no cars being returned to the park, with support expressed for an alternate position of a protected bike lane right around the park (use one of the current traffic lanes)
- Support for extending the #23 bus to do a loop of the park, using the established Hop On Hop Off spots, to help reduce vehicle volumes in the park
- Can we get mode share figures? (not easily, as measuring it is expensive and takes a while, whether we use the census or the annual CoV or Translink Trip Diary)
- City staff figures for walking do not seem representative, as they may weighted to downtown, when in neighbourhoods throughout the City there appear to be many more walkers than usual
- Support expressed for pushing to reduce curbside parking, especially on high streets such as Commercial Drive
- Concerns that the planned City response for subsequent stages is too slow
- Question on why the HUB request was for temporary, and not permanent changes? (simply because our request was submitted in March. We are shifting to a focus on permanent changes, or temporary changes that lead to permanent ones)
- Support expressed for permanent changes because public health means permanent, not temporary. Support for temporary only if it leads to permanent.
- o Not just barriers for local traffic only, but diverters to reduce motor vehicle counts
- Temporary patios to support restaurants with physical distancing should be done in parking areas, not on sidewalks
- Request for parking along Beach Ave to be removed permanently.
- Concerns expressed re NW Marine Drive, including the part managed by MoTI. Vehicles parking on the street as park parking lots are closed.
- **6.** Consultations (Jeff) no update this month. We expect limited consultations to resume soon
- 7. Correspondence Lot of mail received re support for temporary and permanent road space reallocations
- 8. Board Update (Jeff) no update this month
- 9. Regional Advisory Committee (Jeff) no update this month

## 10. Other Business

- Business is reported to be up significantly at local bike shops
- City Conversations scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup> on Restarting Vancouver, with Councillor Dominato and other guests. Sold out. Plan is for it to be recorded for viewing later
- Bike Theft conversation held with VPD and Lisa. Anecdotal observations of new riders not locking their bikes.

20:00 Meeting adjourned

Next meeting June 16th, 2020, by Zoom web meeting (link will be sent out in advance of the meeting)