



September 18, 2019

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RE: Ironworkers Memorial Bridge and Stanley Park Causeway Maintenance Issues

Dear Mr. Bhatti,

HUB Cycling is a charitable organization working to get more people cycling, more often. We believe that more cycling means healthier, happier, more connected communities. We are writing to you to seek assistance in resolving a number of ongoing maintenance issues.

We appreciate the province's investments to build better facilities for active transportation on the Ironworkers Memorial bridge and along the Stanley Park Causeway. Just like roads, these pathways require regular maintenance and repairs to function as safe transportation routes for people cycling and walking. We ask that the province allocates adequate resources to maintain the pathways and ensure the safety of all users.

The specific issues include the following:

- Long delays in repairing damaged pathway fencing along multiple segments of the Ironworkers Memorial Bridge and Stanley Park Causeway approaches. There remain significant gaps on the Ironworkers Memorial Bridge presenting potentially fatal exposure to pedestrians and particularly cyclists. While attention has been drawn to the issue through social media comments and extensive email correspondence since early March no firm timeline has been provided for when all of the repairs will be completed, or whether there is a corrective action plan proposed to ensure similar repair delays will not occur in the future.
- The Stanley Park Causeway pathways requires regular sweeping and trimming to the edge of the path to maintain the effective width of the facility. This has not been done since the causeway improvement project was completed in 2016. The poor maintenance puts users at risk, especially in the designated passing zones on the southbound path that may effectively be too narrow to pass safely. We are aware

of at least one collision occurring at the second passing zone between passing cyclists, and both cyclists required an ambulance.

- Following a tractor-trailer collision and fire on August 21st, the northeast pathway connection from Ironworkers Memorial was left in a hazardous condition for several weeks with quick-dry cleanup material covering the pathway directly upstream of a newly opened gap in the fence.

HUB would like to stress the urgency of these repairs and regular maintenance and remind the Ministry of the lifeline functions these two bridge connections serve in the regional and provincial cycling network.

We also offer the following items for Ministry consideration in order to ensure that future maintenance needs for pedestrian and cycling infrastructure are covered:

- Review the appropriateness and safety of the current pathway fence design. We understand the fence was a context-specific design for the Stanley Park Causeway and was then adopted for the Ironworkers Memorial Bridge approaches. However, given the frequency with which damage has occurred, a long-term solution needs to be found that provides a suitable level of safety and separation while meeting highway crash-worthiness requirements.
- Ensure that replacement parts and equipment necessary to protect pedestrians and cyclists are readily available to the maintenance contractor when damaged due to collisions or other events and that the repair procedure is routine enough that it can be implemented immediately after damage is detected.
- The brush trimming along both Causeway pathways is too infrequent and encroaches every year on the effective width of the facilities. We understand that brush trimming is the responsibility of the Vancouver Park Board, and we ask that the Ministry finds a solution with the Park Board to trim an additional one or two times in the summer.
- Ensure that during the negotiation of maintenance contracts the unique needs of pedestrians and cyclists are considered in sweeping, clearing, mowing and other scope of work provisions such that a contractual gap does not remain (i.e. in the event additional sweeping is necessary outside of the defined annual sweeps).

If you have any questions or comments about our request, please contact us at northshore@bikehub.ca and vancouver@bikehub.ca. We look forward to the Ministry's responsiveness on this file and for their continuing support of active transportation through the Province.

Yours truly,

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