

VACC comments River Road, Darby to Carshill

E-mail to Richard Wong, Maple Ridge Engineering

Date: May 3, 2010

Hi Richard,

We appreciate you asking our input on the above. Sorry that it took some time before getting back to you.

We've had some discussion amongst the members of our VACC group regarding our preference for (ped/)bike infrastructure along River Road between Darby and Carshill. There are some ideas, but I was wondering if you could tell me how much narrower the car lane width could be than it is now, and how much space that would leave for cyclists and pedestrians altogether. I suppose it might not be the same all along that stretch. But it would be great if you can give me an idea of the minimum and maximum space. I believe you mentioned that the options would be either bike lanes on both sides (with a sidewalk?) or a wider multi-use path on one side?

The many driveways are a concern. The possibility of putting (plastic) bollards was mentioned. On a multi-use pathway on the south side on a stretch of New Westminster Highway in Richmond many cyclists have run into steel bollards, and this apparently has caused many to start using the road again. They would still run into plastic ones, but the injuries would be less... Clearly not an ideal solution.

Because of the many driveways we believe it would be better to have paths on either side of the road as opposed to a bi-directional multi-use path on one side of the road. Depending on the space available, of course it is always preferable to have pedestrians and cyclists separated. The fact that the sidewalk acts as a buffer between any hedges or other barriers would potentially make cyclists somewhat more visible to drivers exiting their driveways. Since cyclists move at a faster speed than pedestrians, this might reduce potential problems.

It will be necessary to provide some kind of separation between cars and cyclists. One of the suggestions that came up is shown on the attached photo. It is always preferable to add some landscaping if possible, so that we can not only improve safety of all road users, but at the same time improve aesthetics.

You mentioned that possibly car lanes will be narrower. This will slow down the traffic, which we agree is a good traffic calming measure.

Do you think it will be possible at some point to extend the cycling/pedestrian paths beyond

Carshill, going east?

Kind regards,

Jackie Chow

Communications

Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Chapter

Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition