



May 10, 2017

Ashok Bhatti
Regional Director, South Coast Region
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

cc: Grant Main, Deputy Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Patrick Livolsi, Assistant Deputy Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

Dear Mister Bhatti:

Re: Cycling improvements associated with Alex Fraser Bridge Project

Recently, the Ministry of Transportation has announced several projects on and near the Alex Fraser Bridge: the increase in traffic lanes on the bridge from six to seven, the installation of a new interchange at Hwy 91 and 72nd Av and several intersection changes in the vicinity of the south end of the bridge.

Currently, conditions on the Alex Fraser Bridge sidewalks and approach paths that cyclists share with pedestrians are poor - the worst of any major bridge in the Lower Mainland. It should be noted that when the bridge was planned cyclists were to be accommodated on wide shoulders on the roadway; however, these have long since been repurposed as motor vehicle lanes and cyclists have been forced to share pedestrian facilities that were not designed to accommodate cycling. We ask that, in line with the Province's Cycling Strategy which states that "provisions for cyclists are made on all new and upgraded provincial highways", upgrades to these facilities be included as part of these projects.

Concerns regarding the current cycling provisions include but are not limited to:

- Width, steepness, surface quality, drainage, alignment and intersection treatments of approach paths
- Width of the bridge sidewalks as a shared facility
- Bridge sidewalk pinch-points as narrow as 0.9 m at sign bridge trusses, as well as other unmarked hazards
- Inadequate and circuitous routing through the Cliveden Avenue interchange
- Inadequate and/or misleading directional signage

Cycling connections at the south end of the Alex Fraser Bridge have become more awkward since the implementation of Hwy 17, particularly for those travelling to or from River Road. Safe and convenient walking and cycling connections are also needed to connect the Alex Fraser Bridge with existing cycling facilities in North Surrey and North Delta. In addition to the narrow paths, steep grades and drainage issues on connecting paths as noted above, the shared two-way sidewalk on the south side of Nordel Way is an inadequate facility for cycling and is uncomfortable for pedestrians when having to share with cyclists. We ask that work in the vicinity of the Hwy 17, Hwy 91 and Nordel Way intersections be planned with a view to improving cycling connections.

Hwy 91 south of the Alex Fraser Bridge represents a fast, flat route that would allow cyclists to avoid the circuitous routings and significant hills that they must currently negotiate. Our vision for the future includes a "cycling highway" - a separated, direct and high quality facility that is suitable for all ages and abilities - along this corridor. Until such a facility is built, we ask that cycling be permitted on the shoulders of Hwy 91 south of the Alex Fraser Bridge. Please note that our previous request for



access was denied on the basis that the 72nd intersection was not suitable for bicycles. It appears that the design concept for a new interchange at this location can readily be adapted to resolve this issue. However, whether or not cycling is allowed on Hwy 91 in the near term, we ask that all work on the interchanges at Nordell Way/Hwy 17 and at 72nd Ave be designed to accommodate cycling so that these intersections are not a barrier to future cycling projects.

In conclusion, we respectfully request to meet with the appropriate Ministry staff in order to learn more about the announced projects, to provide details regarding the concerns we have outlined and to provide input into ways in which cycling conditions can be improved at this important regional transportation node. Please contact us at rac@bikehub.ca to arrange a meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Alex Clarkson and Arno Schortinghuis
Co-chairs, HUB Cycling's Regional Advisory Committee