



October 18, 2015

Mayor and Council, City of Vancouver

Re: HUB Cycling Support re Viaducts Removal and the new Pacific Blvd

HUB Cycling is a charitable organization that works to make cycling better through education, events and collaboration. We are Metro Vancouver's leader in making cycling an attractive choice for everyone.

We take this opportunity to express our support for the October 6th Staff Report on the removal of the viaducts, the creation of a new Pacific Boulevard, and the creation of a new Active Bridge to provide cycling connectivity from the existing Adanac, Ontario and Carrall bicycle routes to Dunsmuir Street. We are pleased to see a strong focus on active transportation in this report. We have been involved in consultations on these issues, and look forward to continuing that discussion in the advanced planning phase.

We support the removal of the viaducts, but more than simply replacing them, we see this as a moment in the history of the city where Vancouver can make significant progress towards its Greenest City Goals with world class active transportation facilities. We can create complete ground level streets, serving the needs of all modes, and plan for accommodating our rapidly changing mode share numbers, particularly for cycling.

For the new Active Bridge, we suggest a maximum 3% grade over the length. This will provide a more comfortable access than the 5% planned for the Georgia ramp, while reducing downhill speeds. We also suggest that consideration be given to the timing of the delivery of this bridge. For the new roads, we would also like to see a principle established that all new roads be designed as complete streets, and this would include the Georgia ramp. We feel it is short sighted to not include a downhill protected bike path on this section.

HUB Cycling supports the goals of increasing active transportation modes, and providing improved connectivity in this area. We are confident that the proposed improvements have the potential to do this. We ask that you consider additional guiding principles for the next phase of the project, to ensure attention is paid to the above points. With that, we feel that this project will be another major step forward in helping Vancouver achieve its goals.

Sincerely,

Jeff Leigh

Co-Chair, Vancouver UBC Committee

HUB Cycling

Lisa Slakov

Co-Chair, Vancouver UBC Committee

HUB Cycling