



November 5, 2019

Park Board Commissioners (by email)

Dear Commissioners,

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 have recently worked closely with staff in the VanPlay process and are excited to continue working with Park Board to include cycling as a wonderful all ages, low cost recreational activity that also helps safeguard the environment. Considering that we now have the Playbook to guide Park Board moving forward, we have referenced a couple of the "Approaches for Action" in this message.

We understand that the **Seaside Greenway - Kitsilano area improvement proposal** is coming to you at a Park Board meeting on November 18. Although we have not yet seen the report that staff is preparing to submit, we understand that it will only provide Commissioners with one option for approval in moving forward- the original staff proposed option from the last time a proposal came forward on March 12, 2018 in [this report](#). In the report, you will note that in Appendix A, there were several options put forward for the Seaside Greenway. Appendix C provides the staff recommended path alignment.

We would be deeply concerned about the process of ensuring the best possible public amenity in the Kitsilano area if only one option is put forward in the public engagement stage. Under the Playbook Approaches for Action G5, there is a clear mandate for "wide reaching and effective community engagement". **Consequently, we urge you to include at least the other options put forward in Appendix A for public discussion.** HUB Cycling believes that it is long past the time to get wide public input on this much-loved public amenity and not just to rely primarily on input from a few locally focused groups. The Seaside Greenway belongs to everyone in the city and will benefit from a robust, open consultation process.

We believe that there are **a few key considerations** this Board should consider as we move forward on the Seaside Greenway Kitsilano area:

1. Timeliness:

- a. As the report referenced above describes, this has been a serious gap in the safety and comfort of the Seaside Greenway since the full Seaside Greenway was approved in 1995.

- b. City Council requested “that the Board of Parks and Recreation proceed with upgrading of the Seaside Greenway in Kitsilano Beach and Hadden Parks as a priority project funded by the City’s capital budget” in 2013
- c. A few processes of engagement have occurred since 2013
- d. A staff report accompanied by a full roster of concerned citizen speakers was presented to the Board in March 2018. The previous Board sent the report back to staff without any opportunity for speakers to have their say and only now is it coming forward again.
- e. This project is urgent and has been delayed for far too long, to the frustration of many Vancouverites. Please move forward with an improvement project for the Seaside Greenway- Kitsilano area at the November 18 meeting, including a robust public engagement process and accelerated timelines

2. Climate emergency:

The City issued a climate emergency report in April: 3 of the 6 big moves focus on our massive transportation emissions problem. Cycling to parks along the Greenway helps address this issue; in the Playbook P4, it cites a need to “respond to challenges and future trends [including climate change] through proactive park design”.

3. Urgency and Funding:

HUB Cycling will request that City Council provide additional funds to help ensure that this project can happen within this capital plan and not be delayed for yet more years.

We look forward to the Seaside Greenway- Kitsilano area finally becoming truly accessible, safe and comfortable for all and to working toward that goal with the rest of the community and Park Board. Please feel free to contact me with any comments and/or questions.

Sincerely,

Lisa Slakov
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