



September 2, 2015

Park Board Commissioners

Dear Park Board Commissioners,

We are writing on behalf of the HUB Cycling Vancouver/UBC Local Committee regarding the sections of the Seaside Greenway cycling and walking path that pass through various parks from the Burrard Bridge through the Kitsilano Beach area to where Balsam St meets Cornwall Ave at the far western side of Kitsilano Beach Park.

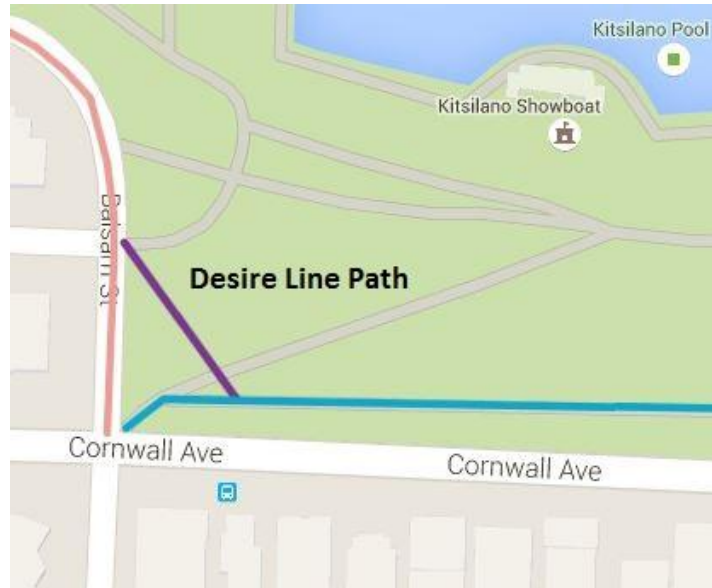
The HUB local committee has been very concerned about safety and comfort issues for people walking and biking on the Seaside Greenway in this area for quite some time and have raised this concern with both the Vancouver Park Board Commissioners and staff. We wrote a letter on this issue in support of an Active Transportation Policy Council motion in July 2014 (copy appended here) that outlines our issues with the path in this area. Our HUB committee has a working group devoted to the Seaside South Greenway improvements as we believe that this route is in such critical need of improvements. Fortunately, the section from the Cambie St Bridge to the Burrard St Bridge is currently being reviewed for improvements but the critical section from the Burrard Bridge to the connection with the newly completed Seaside Greenway improvements west of Kitsilano park is still unsafe and uncomfortable for the huge numbers of people cycling and walking on it.

In addition, there is a current significant cause for concern with respect to a recent path blockage in Kitsilano Park, see photo and map below:



 @wearehub
 @wearehub
info@bikehub.ca
bikehub.ca

1-828 West 8th Ave.
Vancouver, BC
V5Z 1E2 Canada
604.558.2002



This is a "desire line" path that has been in this spot for years and allows people to avoid going to the intersection of Balsam and Cornwall in order to connect the completed, safe Seaside Greenway route with the paved path that runs along Cornwall inside the fence there. As we know from crash data including ICBC data, street intersections are one of the most dangerous places to be for everyone (people in cars, on bikes and on foot) and this path is a clear indication that people are innately seeking a safer way of accessing the Seaside Greenway here. This path has grown significantly in the last couple of years, showing how many more people are using the Seaside Greenway in this area since parts of the route were improved in 2014.

HUB believes that the closure of this path is not in the interests of improving safety and comfort for Seaside Greenway users.

In addition, we believe that this path closure highlights again the need for a comprehensive look at this Kitsilano area of the Seaside Greenway in order to improve it for all users and bring it in line with the rest of the Greenway. The Seaside Greenway is such an exceptional route around Stanley Park and most of False Creek but it fails the public in this section.

We look forward to a conversation regarding improving the Seaside Greenway in this area as well as a discussion of the path closure as soon as possible. We would be very pleased to meet with Park Board representatives to discuss ideas for improvements.

Regards,

Lisa Slakov, Jeff Leigh
Co-chairs, HUB Vancouver/UBC Committee

cc Mayor and Council, City of Vancouver
Active Transportation Policy Council



July 1, 2014

Park Board Commissioners

Dear Park Board Commissioners:

Re: HUB Letter of Support for ATPC motion regarding Kitsilano Beach/Hadden Park

The HUB Vancouver/UBC Committee supports in principle the motion which was passed by the Active Transportation Policy Council (ATPC) regarding the ongoing safety and comfort issues related to the multi-use paths in Kits Beach and Hadden parks.

We agree with the ATPC that the status quo is not acceptable. The Seaside Greenway is a significant recreational and tourism resource and it is vital that a safe routing for this path be provided through Kits Beach and Hadden parks. With the City's recent improvement of the Point Grey-Cornwall route, it is very likely that the narrow multi-use path through the parks connecting to the rest of the Seaside path will see more and more use by people walking, jogging, and cycling.

We recognize the controversy of making any changes to Kits or Hadden parks, particularly on the issue of perceived loss of green space and the covenant for Hadden Park. Yet it does not follow that nothing can be done. We therefore support a measured plan aimed at creating a path design which will satisfy most stakeholders.

By working closely with the neighbourhood residents and stakeholder groups, it should be possible to find a resolution to the safety issues that currently exist and at the same time address the concerns expressed by some park neighbours.

We would be happy to work with park board staff and other stakeholder groups to seek a resolution to the ongoing safety and comfort issues associated with the current multi-use paths.

Sincerely,

Lisa Slakov, Jeff Leigh

Co-chairs, HUB Vancouver/UBC Committee

cc Mayor and Council, City of Vancouver

Active Transportation Policy Council