

E-mail to Mayor and Council, dated June 12, 2016

Re: Hammond Area Concept Plan endorsement / Council Workshop June 13

Dear Mayor and Council,

Our Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Chapter of HUB Cycling appreciates all the work and effort that has gone into the Hammond Area Concept Plan, and we are encouraged to see some increased density and mixed use incorporated into the plan. The built environment is critically important in order to encourage a thriving, complete and resilient community with strong social cohesion.

We would like to strongly encourage Council to follow the recommendations made by Fraser Health as outlined in their letter dated April 22, 2016, attached to the staff report, with regard to Guiding Principle #8, as follows:

- **Update Guiding Principle #8 to indicate transportation routes will be accessible and active transportation will be prioritized over private automobile use.** For example: *"Transportation routes are safe, effective and accessible and active modes of transportation such as walking, biking, and transit use are prioritized."* Community Design that supports active transportation has been demonstrated to provide multiple health benefits including promoting regular physical activity, improving air quality, and improving community liveability. A hierarchy of street users, with priority given to those who are walking, cycling, or using public transit can increase road safety for all users.
- **Support mobility and accessibility for all by updating objectives under Guiding Principle #8.** For example, *"Ensure streets provide safe, walkable surfaces for people of all ages and abilities."* Walking is the most basic form of travel and is particularly important for health and ability to reach essential goods and services. Efforts should be made to ensure walking facilities accommodate all potential users regardless of age or physical ability. Streets with sidewalks, crosswalks, lighting, and benches are associated with an increase in physical activity for older adults.
- **Prioritize pedestrian and cycling infrastructure improvements in areas which provide linkages from residential areas to key destinations** such as ensuring safe routes to schools and improving access to transit stops and stations (eg. Maple Meadows West Coast Express station) and nearby employment areas (eg. Commercial areas and Maple Meadows Industrial Park). Making active transportation routes convenient and safe can encourage the decision to walk, cycle or use transit. As well, convenient access to public transit can encourage equality by enhancing mobility among a wide range of vulnerable groups (such as the elderly, those of lower income or those with disabilities).

With kind regards,

Jackie Chow
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Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Chapter