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Metro Vancouver's Cycling Advocates



November 28th 2011

Mr Patrick Livolsi
Regional Director
South Coast Region
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Dear Mr. Livolsi:

RE: SW Marine Drive, Pacific Spirit Park area.

The Vancouver/UBC committee of the Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition (VACC) is concerned about biking conditions along SW Marine Drive between Camosun Street and Wesbrook Mall (see map below). This stretch of road is an important link for cyclists wishing to reach UBC as the entire City of Vancouver bicycle network south of 33rd Street feeds onto this road from the east. Connecting from the west is UBC's bicycle network, serving south campus and Marine Drive west of Wesbrook. UBC and Translink bike maps both label the shoulder of this section of road as "designated on street cycling route" and "major street bicycle lane", respectively.

The reality of this road for cyclists is different. The north side of SW Marine Drive, between Camosun and Kullahun Drive is effectively a free park-and-ride lot for UBC. This makes biking along this road dangerous and prohibitive as it entails squeezing between parked cars and traffic accelerating to the posted speed limit of 80km/h. Cars regularly park here in such a way that forces bikes to move out of the shoulder and into the regular traffic lane to continue their journey (see photos below). Considering the speed that traffic travels in this section, cycling is a dangerous and intimidating option that many people are not willing to entertain.

Access to UBC campus from Vancouver is a general area of concern for cyclists. This has been discussed between UBC, MOTI and the City of Vancouver as far back as 2006, with no discernible action to date. In fact, because of laudable efforts of reducing parking at UBC, the safety of access to UBC along SW Marine has actually deteriorated drastically since 2006. The VACC believes that motor vehicle parking should not be permitted along this section of SW Marine Drive.

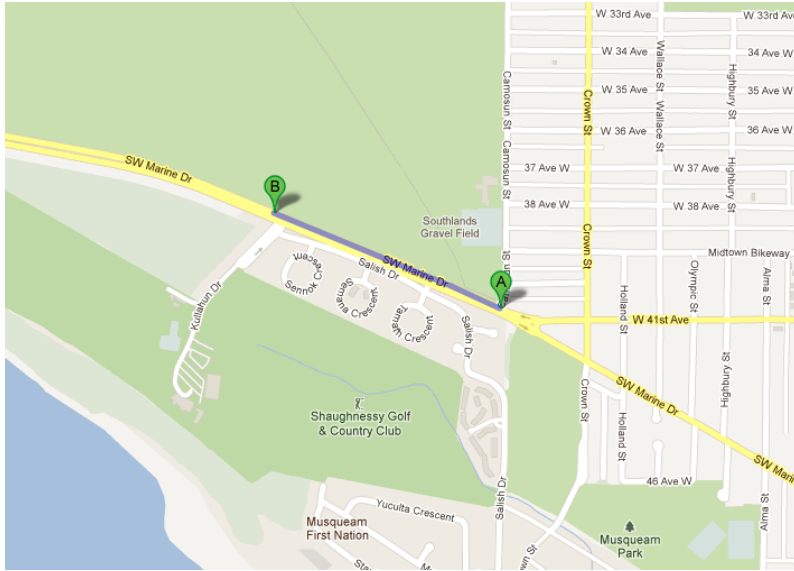
We urge you to take action now to enable safe bicycle travel along SW Marine Drive.

Sincerely,

Heather, Harvey, Co-Chair, VACC Vancouver/UBC Committee.
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Lisa Slakov, Co-Chair, VACC Vancouver/UBC Committee.
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Map highlighting the area of concern:



Picture taken on October 25th demonstrating the issue:

