

Email to mayorandcouncil dated June 8, 2014

Subject: Lougheed MUP and request for bike map

Mayor and Council,

On behalf of HUB, I would like to thank you all for making the stretch of multi-use path along Lougheed Highway between 216th and Laity Streets a reality. While we're still waiting for some finishing touches, such as the landscaping, we're excited about seeing this piece of work done, providing a necessary link in the 117th Ave. bike route. It's definitely a great improvement for the safety of cyclists, and we're looking forward to steps to further improve this bike route.

Of course it's only one of the gaps in our cycling network, and we can't rest on our laurels. Much can be done to improve the cycling experience of cyclists of all ages and abilities, to make this super efficient mode of transport a more mainstream mode of transport in our community.

As you know, many people refer to the Lougheed MUP as "the bike path to nowhere", and I heard from Coun. Masse that a common complaint seems to be that few people use it. If people don't know where to go, of course they're unlikely to use it.

Our HUB committee members are quite happy to organize rides to guide those who would like to find out about this route. We have already invited our 350 e-mail list subscribers as well as facebook fans to come on rides with us. I will also write about this route in my next column (which should be in next Friday's edition of The News), inviting anyone who thinks this is a path to nowhere to find out that it's actually part of a route that's safe for cyclists of all ages and abilities.

I made one map of the 117th Ave. bike route from downtown Maple Ridge to Meadowtown Mall, and another from downtown to the Golden Ears Bridge, which I can send to people in jpg format, and which is also available on our [blog](#) (scroll to the bottom of the page) and can be downloaded from our [facebook page](#) (under "files"). Hopefully this will help until a professionally made map will become available.

I'm hoping that the District will do its part to advertise this and other bike routes. On that note, I recently sent an e-mail to Kelly Swift to ask if the District could produce a bike map. Her reply was that the District has no plans for a bike map, and that the next multi-use map will likely be available in 2015. The present multi-use map is of rather limited use to cyclists and critical information (such as whether or not bridges are available to cross streams) is not available in this map. I can't presently recommend the map to anyone who wants to explore recreational routes by bike. I have informed Parks and Leisure of all the discrepancies in the map that I know of.

The last bike map that the District produced dates from 2006. I haven't met anyone that has a copy other than myself. I believe since then no handy folding bike maps have been put out by the District. As you probably know, a team of 20 people have volunteered through our HUB committee in 2011 and spent many hours to assess the entire cycling network in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows. Unfortunately, the valuable information gathered at the time, and collected by the staff liaison of the Bicycle Advisory Committee, was not used for the recreational Trails Map that the District put out in 2013 (this map was sponsored by the Bicycle Advisory Committee).

A bike map, indicating routes suitable for cyclists of all ages and abilities as well as more challenging routes for the strong and fearless type cyclists, would be very helpful for people to find their way around Maple Ridge by bike. Both the Translink map and the map showing the Golden Ears bridge access (clickable on the [District's website](#)) are outdated and of limited usefulness, especially to those cyclists who are more fearful of traffic. No maps are available on the District's website of the 117th Ave. bike route, nor of the 123/121 bike routes.

Again, our sincere thanks for the multi-use path, and we hope to be able to look forward to more improvements - and a bike map! - in the near future!

Kind regards,

Jackie Chow
HUB: Your Cycling Connection
Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Chapter