



December 30th, 2020

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of BC.
P.O. Box 9038, Station Provincial Government
Victoria, B.C.,
V8W 9A4

The HUB Cycling Burnaby Local Committee (HUB Burnaby) is writing in regard to a Request for a Review of the City of Burnaby's December 8, 2020 Response to Burnaby HUB's Freedom of Information Request of October 22, 2020 – **Request File #20-105** on the amount of funds directly spent on cycling infrastructure in Burnaby.

BACKGROUND:

On October 26th, 2020, the HUB Burnaby submitted an information request to the City of Burnaby.

The request asked for “[d]etailed financial information not found in the 2019 Statement of Financial Information and 2020/2024 Financial Plan, as it relates to Burnaby’s actual and budgeted expenditures for maintenance and expansion of the City’s cycling infrastructure.”

On November 3, 2020, HUB Burnaby (as requested by the City of Burnaby) sent a letter of clarification.

The letter clarified that the financial information requested include “... information related to multi-use pathways” and that “[f]or the 2019 fiscal year we are looking for both the budgeted and actual expenditures for cycling-related activities (infrastructure and operating). For the 2020-2024 fiscal years we are looking for only the budgeted amounts for cycling related activities.”

On December 8, 2020, the City of Burnaby sent its response to HUB Burnaby.

Request for review

We consider that the City of Burnaby's response to our request has not been done in a serious, credible, comprehensive, and responsible manner. We request a review of the City of Burnaby's response for these reasons:

1. No attempt to extract cycling infrastructure components from budget totals

From the City's letter of response on December 8th, 2020,

We do not have budget estimates for the cycling elements of the projects at the level you have requested.

Any improvements to cycling infrastructure are embedded within the scope of larger coordinated infrastructure projects or infrastructure renewal projects.

... projects are not budgeted at a level to enable us to provide budget details for cycling elements at the level requested.

In its response, the City provided a spreadsheet which identifies and describes 16 Engineering projects to be delivered by or for the Roads department.

For 9 of the 16 projects listed, the projected total project cost figures provided are exactly the same as provided in the City's published 2020 – 2024 Financial Plan for Engineering Department Capital Plans, indicating that the City has made no effort to extract from those figures the estimated costs of the cycling infrastructure components, which it must surely have produced in the process of arriving at its total project cost figures. In addition, when contracting out such work this work must be correctly estimated by the City for any contractor.

It is not credible that the City cannot extract the estimated costs of cycling infrastructure from the budget of large projects that include such infrastructure, when in other much smaller types of planned infrastructure improvements, such as bus shelters (\$200,000 in 2021) or audible signs (\$200,000 in 2021), these are costed and reported separately in the Engineering Department's published capital plan.

2. No financial information from the Parks Department

The City's response does not include expenditures and projected costs of cycling related infrastructure delivered by or for the Parks Department.

- In its 2019 Annual Municipal Report, the City makes reference to completing the Patterson Avenue leg of the Central Park rubberized surface perimeter trail for the use of walkers, joggers, and cyclists.
- In its 2020 – 2024 Financial Plan for Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services, the City reports that \$1,257,400 was to be spent on this perimeter trail in 2020, and that a further \$3.1 million is planned to be spent on this perimeter urban trail in 2021, and a further \$900,000 in 2022 and 900,000 in 2023.

- Another item of planned Parks department expenditure on cycling related infrastructure contained in the City's 2020 – 2024 Financial Plan is a planned expenditure of \$325,000 in 2021 on a bike skills area in Burnaby Mountain Park.

As previously stated, these and other items of expenditure on cycling related infrastructure are not contained in the City's response to our request, demonstrating that the City has not responded to our request in a serious, comprehensive, and responsible manner.

3.Lack of transparency

The City's response is inadequate and unacceptable from the perspective of being transparent about how it accounts for major expenditures and projected estimates for capital expenditures.

This does not enable the public to meaningfully engage with City council during its process of public consultation regarding the City's proposed financial plan for 2021 before it is adopted (as required by Section 166 of the *Community Charter*).

For these reasons, HUB Burnaby requests a review of the City of Burnaby's response.

Sincerely yours,

Cathy Griffin

Chair

HUB Burnaby Local Committee

312 Main Street, Vancouver,

V6A 2T2

ATTACHMENTS

Attached are copies of the source documents:

1. HUB Burnaby's letter of request of October 26, 2020
2. HUB Burnaby's letter of clarification of November 3, 2020
3. City of Burnaby's response letter of December 8, 2020

Cc: Pierrette Hodnett, Records Information Administrator, City of Burnaby

B. Zeinabova, Acting City Clerk, City of Burnaby

Mayor and Council, City of Burnaby

Noreen Kassam, Director of Finance, City of Burnaby

HUB Cycling is a charitable not for profit organization that has spent over 20 years removing barriers to cycling in Metro Vancouver, while cultivating the health, environmental, and economic benefits that active transportation can bring. HUB has educated thousands of people, motivated thousands more, and championed improvements that #UnGapTheMap to create a connected cycling network. HUB Cycling's mission is to get more people cycling more often. HUB Cycling have close to 3,000 members and more than 40,000 direct supporters. HUB Cycling has 11 volunteer committees across Metro Vancouver that encourages cycling for all ages and abilities (AAA) in municipalities across Metro Vancouver. For more information, visit bikehub.ca.