



July 21, 2014

Board of Directors,
TransLink

Re: Overcoming Barriers to Cycling at Pattullo Bridge, Massey Tunnel and Burrard Inlet

Dear TransLink Director:

HUB Cycling is a charitable organization that works to make cycling better through education, events and collaboration. We are Metro Vancouver's leader in making cycling an attractive choice for everyone. We have about 1200 members throughout the region and active local committees in most municipalities in Metro Vancouver.

We recognize that TransLink has put a significant amount of effort into improving cycling in Metro Vancouver and thereby encouraging more people to cycle more often. This effort has paid off since Statistics Canada commuter data indicates that more people are cycling to work and TransLink's own 2011 Trip Diary Data shows that cycling is the most rapidly increasing mode of transportation in Metro Vancouver. This results in significant benefits to society including improved mental and physical health, less pollution and noise, less transit crowding and less motor vehicle congestion.

Currently, the Fraser River is a barrier to cycling in Metro Vancouver. The Golden Ears Bridge has excellent cycling facilities and the Alex Fraser Bridge has mediocre cycling paths. Unfortunately, the Pattullo Bridge is currently very unsafe for those riding bikes since it only has a two way unprotected narrow sidewalk which must be shared with those on foot. The Province does fund a shuttle service which ferries cyclists through the Massey Tunnel, however the frequency of operation is insufficient, especially during their off-season scheduling. Also, recent highway modifications near the north end of the Massey Tunnel have made it very difficult and dangerous for cyclists using No 6 Road or Sidaway Road to get to/from the shuttle pickup point.

Those riding bikes do have another option, namely to take transit across the Fraser, however this forces those riding bikes to pay up to a two zone fare in order to take transit from one stop to the next. Note that this choice is impossible for those wishing to use skytrain during peak hours in peak direction since bikes are not allowed on skytrain during these periods. It is also impossible to cycle across the Pattullo Bridge when bridge closures are in effect as will happen later this summer.

We understand that the Pattullo Bridge may be upgraded or replaced and that the Massey Tunnel is scheduled to be replaced with a bridge, however these projects will not be completed for several years. We note

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that those driving motor vehicles can use the Pattullo Bridge and the Massey Tunnel for no cost since these facilities are not tolled.

We therefore request that TransLink allow cyclists to use the Skytrain between Scott Road Station and Columbia Station during all operating hours free of charge. We also request that TransLink work with the Province to establish a system which combines the existing shuttle service with the ability of cyclists to use any of the buses which go through the Massey Tunnel between Steveston Hwy at Hwy 99 and the first stop south of the Massey Tunnel at no cost. For convenience of other passengers, it would prudent to extend the free zone by two additional stops to Ladner Exchange for those buses heading toward Ladner Exchange.

Due to construction activity on the Ironworkers Memorial Bridge (IWMB) and planned work on the Stanley Park Causeway cycling paths, cycling connections across Burrard Inlet will be challenging over the next two years. Currently, all cycling traffic on the IWMB is forced to use only one narrow sidewalk for travel in both directions. At least for the duration of construction, TransLink could help by working with the province to allow those travelling by bike to take the Seabus free of charge.

We are very pleased that TransLink is supportive of cycling and continues to improve cycling in Metro Vancouver by providing good cycling infrastructure, by encouraging cycling through the TravelSmart program and by allowing bike riders to take their bikes on transit most of the time. By removing the barriers to cycling imposed by the Pattullo Bridge improvements, the Massey Tunnel and the bridges over Burrard Inlet, TransLink will encourage even more people to choose cycling for some of their trips.

If you have any questions regarding our proposal, please don't hesitate to call us.

Sincerely,

Alexander Clarkson, President, HUB Cycling

Arno Schortinghuis, Co-Chair, HUB Regional Advisory Committee.

Contact person: Arno Schortinghuis