



January 11, 2016

Ashok Bhatti  
Deputy Regional Director, South Coast Region  
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure  
310 - 1500 Woolridge Street  
Coquitlam, BC V3K 0B8

**RE: Port Mann Bridge multi-use path – cycling deficiencies update**

Dear Ashok,

Thank you for your letter dated October 15, 2015, in which you address our concerns regarding cycling deficiencies with respect to the new Port Mann bridge cycling and pedestrian access.

We are very encouraged by the response of the Ministry in addressing the three main items that we highlighted in our original letter of August 11, 2015. As we pointed out, these issues are relatively minor and fall under the responsibility of the contractor, TI Corp who were contracted to build a minimum standard of infrastructure, return pre-existing facilities to their original functionality, and ensure a level of safety and accessibility appropriate for all ages and cycling abilities.

We understand that staff have been working on these items and have made good progress on several of them. The purpose of this letter is to highlight both the improvements that have been made and the areas still in need of improvement.

1. **Access to pre-existing trails:** Thank you for the improvements that have been made underneath the bridge in the region of Macquabeak Park. The trails by the boat launch have now been fully restored and enhanced. The connection to the old trail along the Fraser River to the east has also been restored. The other item that was flagged in our original letter concerned the restoration of a pre-existing trail access at the Mary Hill Bypass near the Coquitlam River Bridge.

We are pleased that the Ministry is consulting with HUB and other stakeholders on the restoration of this AAA (All Ages and Abilities) link, which was blocked by a temporary concrete barrier during bridge construction. The barrier still remains. On a recent walking tour with Ministry staff it was apparent that the old trail is substantially intact and would need only minor work to restore access. We note that this trail is the only safe route for cyclists along Maryhill since the westbound lane of the bridge is too narrow to safely accommodate cyclists. We hope that the Ministry will restore this pre-existing path to its original condition as soon as possible.

2. **Lack of protective bollards on connector between PMB ramp and Lougheed Highway westbound:** We are very pleased to see this item implemented and thank you for your prompt attention to this safety concern.
3. **Lack of directional signage on the north end of the bridge:** There have been signage improvements made which partially address our concerns. We look forward to seeing the results of the additional work mentioned in your letter of October 15, 2015. We would be happy to meet with staff to provide specific input regarding completion of this item. In particular there are still issues with sufficiency and quality of way-finding language used on the directional signage, and inconsistencies in the instructions to cyclists (e.g. dismount at a crossing where pedestrians are technically forbidden). Additionally, pedestrians should not be prohibited from crossing at these intersections to access the many nearby destinations, such as Macquabeak Park.



As discussed in a meeting between HUB staff and Minister Stone in November, there is still much work to be done to secure connections through Coquitlam to other regional cycling and walking destinations. In addition to the long-standing lack of connections through the United Boulevard area, from the Port Mann Bridge to Braid Skytrain Station, significant connectivity and safety issues also remain northbound along United Boulevard from Mary Hill to Lougheed.

In closing, we look forward to future collaboration and consultation with the Ministry and other stakeholders on these larger regional issues which would fully realize the investment of the province in the excellent Port Mann facilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alexander Clarkson'.

Alexander Clarkson  
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CC:

Erin O'Melinn, Executive Director, HUB Cycling  
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HUB Tri-Cities Committee  
HUB Surrey – White Rock Committee  
HUB Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows Committee  
HUB Regional Advisory Committee