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August 12, 2018

Dear Mayor Hepner:

HUB Cycling is an endorser of the Communities on the Move initiative. As HUB Cycling local Committee Chairs and proud residents of Surrey, we're writing to invite the City of Surrey to support the active transportation and transit goals of this initiative **by becoming a signatory of the [Communities on the Move declaration](#)**. The City would be joining over 100 other organizations and local governments BC-wide who have endorsed the initiative.

The City of Surrey has identified the need for increased mobility options and has "placed sustainability at the centre of all its decision-making" in its many strategic plans. The need for greater mobility options is encapsulated in the Surrey Transportation Strategic Plan where it is noted that this will "[increase]mobility and accessibility and thereby [help] to address the health, social and environmental problems of car dependence." In addition, this concept aligns with other City strategies including the Official Community Plan, Walking Plan, Cycling Plan, Greenways Plan, Neighbourhood Concept Plans, Sustainability Charter, and Child- and Youth-Friendly Strategy. Our HUB Cycling Committee has been excited to work on getting more people cycling more often in Surrey and would love to see all aspects of the Cycling Plan come to fruition.

Although the City has been investing in active transportation throughout the community, there is a lot more work to do. Cities have many competing priorities and tight budgets. It would be unrealistic to expect our city to implement the walking, cycling, accessibility, and mobility improvements identified in these plans completely on its own, without the support of higher levels of government.

It turns out that this is *not* just the case for our community, but resonates for communities across BC, many of which are facing the same transportation needs and challenges as our community. In response to this issue, over 100 local governments and organizations from throughout BC are joining forces around the [Communities on the Move Declaration](#).

The Communities on the Move declaration brings forward a comprehensive and cohesive set of recommendations for how the provincial government could assist local governments in accelerating the development of world-class transportation systems in communities throughout BC. It outlines the need for increased provincial investments and supportive public policies to support active, healthy, and complete communities.

The Communities on the Move *vision* is that, within 10 years-in communities small and large-it will be easy, safe and enjoyable to get around, whether by walking, biking, public transit, driving, ride-sharing or in a wheelchair.

A diverse and growing number of BC municipalities and high-profile organizations have already endorsed the Communities on the Move declaration, including:

- The Heart & Stroke Foundation;
- The Canadian Cancer Society;
- The Health Officers Council of BC;

- The BC Recreation and Parks Association;
- The Trails Society of British Columbia;
- The Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC (COSCO);
- The Disability Alliance BC;
- The Hastings Crossing Business Improvement Association
- The Surrey Board of Trade;
- The District of North Vancouver; the City of Kelowna; Bowen Island Municipality; the City of Vernon; the City of Victoria; the City of Dawson Creek; the Village of Queen Charlotte; the Village of Cumberland; the Town of Creston; the District of Tofino; the Village of Burns Lake; the Town of Gibsons; the City of Parksville; etc.

What does Communities on the Move ask for?

- Investment in a Provincial Active Transportation Strategy to support the development of local cycling and walking infrastructure.
- Investment in innovative transportation systems for rural communities.
- Increased support and long-term funding for transit.
- Commitment to equitable transportation for all.
- Development of Winter City Guidelines.
- Commitment to road safety.

How can Communities on the Move benefit our community?

This initiative provides a cost-effective way for Surrey to voice how the provincial government could further support local communities in creating more livable, healthy, and inclusive neighbourhoods. By endorsing the Communities on the Move Declaration, we'd be joining 100+ local governments and organizations in providing the Province with a clear, unified, and broadly-supported direction to further enhance transportation options in BC communities.

The successful implementation of the recommendations outlined in the Communities on the Move declaration would provide local communities, such as ours, with access to increased funding and supportive provincial policies and programs to facilitate achievement of several of Surrey's city plans' goals; it also includes provisions aligning with the Metro Vancouver Mayors' Ten-Year Plan.

Who is behind the Communities on the Move initiative?

This initiative is led by the BC Alliance for Healthy Living (BCAHL). Formerly known as the BC Healthy Living Alliance, this is a group of organizations that came together in 2003, with a mission to improve the health of British Columbians. Collectively, BCAHL members capture the attention of over 40,000 volunteers, and 4,300 health and recreation professionals. BCAHL works with government and organizations BC-wide to promote wellness, equity, and prevent chronic disease.

If a Council resolution is required to provide an endorsement, you could consider introducing the following resolution for Council adoption:

THAT Council endorses the Communities on the Move declaration published on the BC Alliance for Healthy Living's website and permits the City of Surrey to be added to the list of endorsers on the Communities on the Move website.

In conclusion, we hope you will consider adding City of Surrey to the growing list of *Communities on the Move* endorsers. *Communities on the Move* is another vehicle—a supplementary provincial initiative—to help propel our communities forward in becoming healthier, more inclusive, and livable.

Thank you for considering bringing *Communities on the Move* to your Council's attention.

Sincerely,

Tim Yzerman
Chair, HUB Surrey/White Rock Committee