

MINUTES – Delta HUB Committee Meeting (Feb 1st, 2018)

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Attendees: Patrick (Chair), Greg, Sandra, Barbara, Bill, Roel, John, Hilary, Korine, Karon, Phil,
Regrets: Matthias, Carlene, Carol

2. NEW ITEMS: New items included for discussion

Recap: Transportation Technical Meeting, City of Delta (Jan. 24th)

(A) Feedback from Delta on Delta HUB's 2018 Priority List

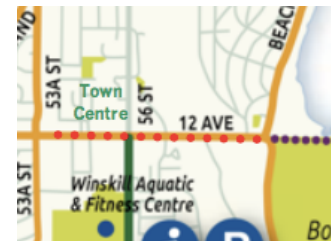
→ River Road West, Ladner

- Delta Engineering appreciates the importance of this priority route, and has been speaking with area stakeholders about options for a while.
- They showed us two conceptual rendering that were prepared, highlighting two different path scenarios:
 - o Shared path – The dike top would be shared by active travel and resident/business access. This scenario is similar to how it is today, but with fewer driveways/cut-outs.
 - o Separated path – A retaining wall would be constructed (at significant cost) allowing for complete separation of cyclists and walkers from vehicles.
- Both concepts have challenges, mostly relating to sea-level rise, seismic standards, fragmented ownership, and funding/cost.
- Replacement of the roadway itself is another option to consider. However, any decision about the road replacement (and the dyke top trails) would be guided by the Official Community Plan for this zone (which may be due for an update). A wider conversation needs to occur through such an OCP process to determine what the community wants to see for this area (covering topics such as tourism, density, mix of uses, and sea-level rise).
- Delta Engineering would be pleased to hear about interim fixes – or ideas for smaller-scale improvements – which, along with the current dike top path could lead to a safer travel.
- To this end, Delta suggested that we organize a site visit (on bikes) with Engineering staff to view the area and the suggested interim fixes.
- **Action:** Delta HUB to consider interim fixes along River Road West. A bike tour of the roadway with Delta Engineering will be organized.



→ 12th Avenue, Tsawwassen

- 12th Ave from Beach Grove Rd to 56th St will soon be repaved, with 1.5m bike lanes painted on both sides of the roadway.
- Regarding the 56th St/12th Ave intersection, it was noted that – pursuant to the Southlands project – Century Group has committed to a new right-turn lane at 12th Ave (for vehicles heading north on 56 St); however, this change will likely not be happening on opening day of the Southlands. A new transportation study will occur, identifying what capacity is there.



To report an immediate road problem:

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- Delta Engineering currently has plans for a *bike box* at the NE intersection of 12th/56 St (where the northbound right turn occurs). This was a suggestion by Delta HUB to provide cyclists continuing west along 12th Ave with enhanced awareness vis-a-vis right-turning traffic at this noted conflict point.
- There appears to be limited space in the road cross-section from 56th west to 55th; accordingly, they anticipate that cycling facilities south and north of the town centre area will continue to be reduced within the 2-block section of 12th Ave.
- Regarding the *12th Ave/Beach Grove/Boundary Bay Road intersection*, there is a conflict point for cyclist traveling east, where they are attempting to either turn into the Boundary Bay parking lot entrance or turn left towards Beach Grove/Boundary Bay dike trail.
- Delta Engineering hopes that a solution could be found using the existing cross-walk situated at the corner of 12th Ave and Morris Crescent (at the Beach Grove Golf Clubhouse entry). Delta HUB suggested a multi-use path be constructed adjacent to the Motel property, connecting cyclists safely to Beach Grove Road.
- A solution would be needed for cyclists/walkers to share the space, including signage/ education to notify users of this safer alternative.

→ 72nd Street, East Delta

- Delta Engineering acknowledged the challenges with 72nd, due to the presence of the widened irrigation ditch, and the additional traffic heading to area businesses.
- In the future, 72nd between Churchill and Ladner Trunk will require some improvement (it is now categorized as an “MRN”, or part of the Major Road Network of Metro Vancouver).
- While 64th is encouraged for commuting/recreation cycling, Delta can consider the idea of a paved path from the SFPR exit onto 72nd (where the Hwy 17 bike lane ends). This would mirror the paved path on the southbound side, connecting Ladner Trunk to the SFPR.
- Many of the South Delta riding groups use 72nd (on the weekend, when it is less busy)
- **Action:** Delta HUB to connect with Team Coastal to see whether 72nd is an important corridor for their riders.



→ 28th Ave between 56 St and 52 St, Tsawwassen

- In conjunction with the third phase of the Arthur Drive improvements, the southernmost section (53 St) – from the Deltaport overpass south to 28 Ave – will be replaced.
- There will be bike lanes on both sides, all the way to 52nd St (connecting with the 52nd bike lanes).
- This is being coordinated with Metro Vancouver as part of their watermain replacement. In addition, 28th and 53rd will become a signalized intersection.
- In the next 2 years, Metro Vancouver will be replacing the watermain along 28th; at that point, the key section of 28th from 56th to 52nd may be widened to accommodate cyclists.



→ 75A St, North Delta

- Delta HUB previously wrote a letter to Delta with feedback on the proposed high-rise at the intersection of 75A and Scott Road (with increased traffic, and new bike lanes on the Surrey

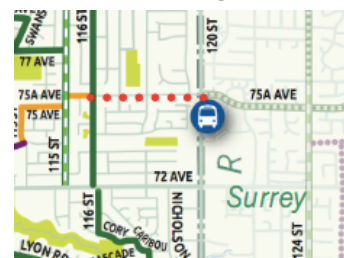
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side of Scott Road, it would provide a safe and efficient east-west cycle connection for bikers). Councillor Heather King raised the suggestion at a recent council meeting.

- Delta Engineering explained that, back in 2002, residents of 75A introduced a road-narrowing measure to reduce traffic on their street (which they just completed paying for). They sought to reduce vehicular traffic, and have fewer conflict points.
- Accordingly, the existing cross-section does not support dedicated east-west bike lanes on 75A.
- To move it forward, area residents would have to be asking for it (and it is unlikely that they would be supportive right now).



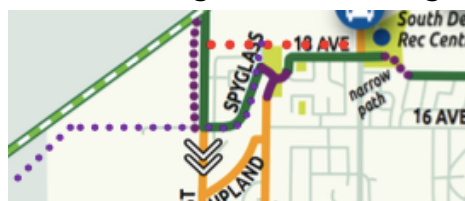
→ **56 Street Multi-use path idea (from 6 St to 8A), Tsawwassen**

- Delta Engineering will review the idea of repurposing one of the existing 2 sidewalks on this section to help connect the future multi-use path at the Southlands (which will end at 56th and 6th Ave) and the future multi-use path at the Winskill Park area.
- They will need to look at options for the section between the cemetery and Winskill (where the double sidewalk ends on the east side of 56 St).
- With new bike lanes happening on 8A, there may be an option to direct cyclists from 56th to 8A (at the signalized intersection); cyclists could then travel half a block to 55A St (which will eventually also have bike lanes) to access Winskill Park. Further study is needed.



→ **Imperial Village path, Tsawwassen**

- Delta confirmed that they will soon be obtaining the Right-of-Way from BC Hydro (they have been attempting to secure the ROW for over a decade).
- The Hydro-owned section is the paved lane from 52nd St to the Imperial Village park. Delta owns the ROW for the gravel section (from Imperial Village to Century Square).
- Once the full ROW is controlled by Delta, the public will have the formal right to travel along the corridor, and Delta can provide signage and markings.
- In the past, there has been some discussion about continuing the trail along Delta-owned property around the periphery of Century Square (next to the Delta-owned farmland); if implemented, this would connect to 56 St, and allow passage east (towards the Boundary Bay dike/Beach Grove) using the signalized intersection on 56th St next to Southpointe Academy.



(B) Other Consultation items with Delta Engineering

→ **Update: 8A Avenue Bike Lanes, Tsawwassen**

- Bike lanes have been approved by Council on both sides of 8A Avenue. They will eventually connect all the way from English Bluff Rd to 56 St.
- They will be retrofitting the sidewalk and adding in some raised crosswalks (Note: a full sidewalk will only be on one side of the street (south side from English Bluff to 53A, transitioning to north side east of 53A).

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→ **Bike Monitoring**

- TransLink has funds to provide one bike counter, to be introduced at a higher usage location (for fall-summer); the information gathered would support future infrastructure upgrades.
- Delta is looking for any suggestions that Delta HUB members may have. One idea would be Nordel Way – a regional cycling route, connecting Surrey/North Delta bikers to the Surrey/North Delta Greenway (south) and to the Alex Fraser Bridge (north).
- Other ideas raised include: *72nd St*; *64th St* (between 34b and 36th Ave, to identify regional commuters); *Boundary Bay dike* (17A entrance/Beach Grove Rd to 64th St, to justify investment in more compact surface); *56th St* (Hwy 17 to 28 Ave, to support investment in a wider, more cycling-friendly roadway).
- If Delta HUB members have additional suggestions, please email Patrick.
- **Action:** Greg will forward Strava “heat maps” which reveal high usage roadways tagged by area cyclists. Delta HUB to review ideas/recommendations at March committee meeting.

→ **TransLink-funded bike education course**

- \$4,500 will be available to the City of Delta (via HUB) to proceed with another bike education course. Delta is looking for suggestions from Delta HUB about the type of course (i.e. youth education at local school; adult education).
- Delta Engineering would endorse another school course, as the others were well-received. An adult bike education course was attempted many years ago by Delta Parks & Recreation (apparently, there was minimal interest from residents at the time).
- Delta HUB suggests that the course be tied to new (or improved) cycling infrastructure that would support school children safely riding to school (i.e. Sacred Heart in Ladner, adjacent to new Arthur Drive bike lanes; Richardson Elementary in North Delta, adjacent to future bike lanes along 84 Ave).
- If an adult education course were pursued, it could be tied to tourism (i.e. “stay-cation” – being a tourist in your own town – to discover cycling in Delta). This could involve an organized event, connecting curious locals with the Boundary Bay dike trail and/or local agriculture. It could also be coordinated with the Tour de Delta.
- **Action:** Delta HUB to propose a school education course. An adult-oriented (or intergenerational) bike ride will be explored with Fraser Health and others in conjunction with their Healthy Built Environment initiative (see *below*).

→ **“Cycling Without Age” program (Delta Seniors Advisory Subcommittee)**

- Cycling Without Age is a program that enlists volunteer cyclists to provide seniors and people with disabilities with bike rides in a special rickshaw-style bicycles. One or two passengers sit up front while the pilot peddles from behind.
- The initiative was raised by Cllr. Sylvia Bishop. As a next step, Delta’s Seniors Advisory Subcommittee will form working group to further investigate program (including potential partners that may be interested in implementing a Delta chapter).

→ **City of Delta – Annual Budget for Cycling**

- The amount allocated to bike infrastructure (multi-modal transportation) is currently limited to \$50k/year within the Neighbourhood Road Improvement Project (NRIP) funding program.
- In a given year, this amount is distributed to signage, road markings, Delta Routes maps, and bike-activated signals (which cost ~\$5,000-8,000/each). In 2017, funds will primarily go towards the bike lanes planned for 8A Ave in Tsawwassen and 84 Street in North Delta.

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3. DISCUSSION – Healthy Built Environment/Community Safety initiative

- Korine from Fraser Health and Karon from ICBC led a discussion about ideas for promoting a Healthy Built Environment (HBE) and safe commuting for all road users. TransLink and the Delta Seniors Planning Team are also involved in this initiative.
- Fraser Health's HBE program is focused on 5 central areas: active transportation; neighbourhood design; natural environment; food systems, and affordable housing.
- Korine described the "Seniors Transportation Forum" event that took place in Surrey last November to promote more walking & cycling among seniors. It was organized in conjunction with the City's new "Age-Friendly Strategy". Speakers included FHA, TransLink, ICBC, Surrey Engineering; ~300 residents participated.
- A variation of this event might be appropriate for Delta. It was noted that local farm markets may be coming to area seniors' centres, so there could be an idea to incorporate "active travel" in a similar way. In addition, Delta has a new Public Health nurse, focused on prevention, diet, more active living for all ages. Liaising with Delta's Social Planner (Gillian MacLeod) about the topic is also recommended.
- A Town Hall for Seniors will be happening in North Delta (Feb. 23rd, 2-4pm), which may be another opportunity to discuss integrated planning ideas.
- One local event idea might be an intergenerational outing involving both seniors and school kids. The group could convene at South Delta Recreation Centre on a Friday (as an organized field trip for students). Bike skills, safety and maintenance could be discussed, followed by a simple bike trip from South Delta Rec Centre to the Boundary Bay dike trail (along 17A Ave); the group could culminate at the Boundary Bay Airport for lunch, raising awareness about tourism and recreation. An event for the Tour de Delta is another idea.
- To integrate the views and priorities of local groups with an interest in active living (including HUB, Delta Seniors, TransLink, Delta Police, etc), FHA also recommends the formation of an Active Transportation Committee for Delta (which existed prior to 2011). Delta HUB has made the same suggestion to Delta in our 2018 Priority List.
- **Action:** Karon/Korine to follow-up with Cllr Sylvia Bishop, who is involved in both the Seniors and Community Planning Committees with the City of Delta. Patrick to send Delta staff report on "Cycling without Age" to Karon and Korine. A follow-up meeting with key stakeholders will be organized by FHA in the early Spring.

4. WORKING GROUP UPDATES:

LOCAL/REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

→ Gateway Casino application

- Several Delta HUB members attended one of the public information sessions hosted by the City of Delta for the new casino proposal at the Town & Country Inn site.
- Delta HUB will aim to submit a letter in advance of the deadline. The comments will focus on leveraging any changes in the local roadway system to improve related cycling infrastructure. Preserving existing routes and connections to the Deas Island/Millennium Trail is also a priority.
- In addition, safety for area cyclists was identified as an important consideration. A fatal collision occurred on River Road in Richmond last year whereby a cyclist was struck by a vehicle; it is understood that the driver of the vehicle had been at the River Rock Casino all night, just before the collision.
- **Action:** Delta HUB members to submit any additional comments to Patrick (by March 1st).

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EDUCATION/ENGAGEMENT

- **Outreach to Delta North and Delta South MLA's** (Re: Provincial cycling priorities)
 - Delta HUB contacted both MLA Ian Paton (Delta South) and MLA Ravi Kahlon (Delta North) regarding cycling priorities in Delta that fall under provincial jurisdiction..
 - A meeting is planned with MLA Paton on Feb 23rd with in Ladner.
 - MLA Kahlon's office replied that they have been briefed by the Ministry of Transportation on many of the issues identified in our provincial priorities letter; no meeting has been set yet.
- **TransLink's Southwest Area Transport Plan** (Re: Transit/Cycling in Delta/Richmond/TFN)
 - The Final meeting of the SWATP public advisory committee will be on Feb. 8th; the Final Report and public release will follow-shortly thereafter.

5. OTHER

→ **Delta HUB in the Delta Optimist**

- The following Letter to the Editor from Delta HUB was published in the Delta Optimist in support of the new bike lanes on 8A Ave in Tsawwassen:
<http://www.delta-optimist.com/opinion/letters/cycling-group-welcomes-bike-lanes-on-8a-avenue-1.23166277>

***Next Delta HUB meeting: Thursday, March 1st, 2018** (Location: Ladner Pioneer Library)

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