

May 17, 2021

Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure
(By email: minister.transportation@gov.bc.ca)

Honourable Bowinn Ma, Minister of State for Infrastructure
(By email: Minister.SI@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Minister Fleming and Minister Ma,

On behalf of HUB Cycling's more than 45,000 contacts, I am writing to you to express thanks for the investment in cycling and active transportation in Budget 2021.

The pandemic has been a very challenging year for everybody across the province. It has also shown a dramatic increase in ridership for cycling, which provides a physically distanced, convenient mobility option and a way for people to combine their commute with physical activity that improves both physical and mental health in these trying times.

HUB Cycling is pleased to see the PST exemption announced for electric-assist bicycles. E-assist cycles are increasing in popularity. They expand the accessibility of cycling to more ages and abilities, hilly places, and longer distances - commuting from suburbs to job centres, and improving cycle tourism opportunities.

To complement this and leverage e-bikes' full potential, the Province should build cycle highways that allow people to conveniently and safely travel long distances. The adoption of e-assist bikes will help the Province accomplish its transportation, climate action, poverty reduction, equity and health goals.

HUB Cycling also acknowledges the positive impact of \$18 million in new grants for local governments. The B.C. Active Transport Infrastructure Grants amount this year is more than double what was available in 2020 (170% increase over \$8.5 million), which is certainly moving in the right direction. It is still short of HUB Cycling's recommendation of \$45 million/year needed to build and connect cycling networks, which would provide people with truly connected, safe options to reach the Province's target of doubling the number of trips taken with active transportation in the next nine years.

Historically, the demand for municipal cost-share funding for cycling has always outweighed supply from the Province. Cycling for transportation is quickly growing - even quicker during the pandemic as cycling responds to the increased pressure on physical and mental health, affordability and distanced social and transportation opportunities - all of which are served by active transportation. HUB Cycling is pleased to see this positive progress and recognition of how important active transportation is to our collective health, mobility, equity and well-being here in BC.

Promotion and education are a significant part of shifting to more sustainable modes. MoTI is walking the talk by providing support for physical facilities and the awareness and motivation people need to use them. With the ministry's support, the Everyone Rides Grade 4-5 program is reaching more students with the skills and knowledge to safely and confidently cycle for transportation. This is creating a generation of commuters that feel they have active mobility choices.

Thank you for your continued support of cycling network connections, education and promotion. Together, this is making our region more robust, resilient, and livable.

Sincerely,



Erin O'Melinn
Executive Director
HUB Cycling

ABOUT HUB Cycling

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 such as [#UnGapTheMap](#) to create a connected cycling network.

HUB Cycling's mission is to get more people cycling more often. We make cycling better through education, action and events. More cycling means healthier, happier, more connected communities. We're leading the way in making cycling an attractive choice for everyone. Learn more at bikehub.ca