

E-mail to Coun. Shymkiw, Jan. 19, 2018

cc: David Pollock P.Eng.

Re: 132 Ave. between 216th and 232nd St. / cycling

Hi Tyler,

I just watched the presentation at Council Workshop of Jan. 9 by Mr. Pollock on the Engineering Department's Business Plan.

You made some comments during the meeting regarding your belief that people on bikes use 132nd Ave. between 216th and 232nd Streets "pretty much without issue all the time".

I would like to point out that this is not at all the case. The "multi-use" pathway that was created along part of this section of 132nd Ave. is great for horses and mountain bikes, and provides a safe place for kids and others going for a leisurely recreational ride, but does not satisfy the requirements for cycling from a transportation perspective.

This is an arterial that is classified as a designated bike route, and as such it should allow cyclists of all ages and of the whole spectrum of abilities, to safely ride on a paved surface that enables them to travel at a "normal" cycling speed, which is not possible on the multi-use path, unless you're ok with a teeth- and bone-rattling experience.

It is our experience that the gravel on the multi-use pathway is not very suitable for bikes that are generally used for transportation purposes, which tend to have thinner tires than mountain bikes. It is most definitely not suitable for road bikes.

There is no shoulder along the roadway. The barrier that has been constructed along the pathway has made cycling on the roadway even more dangerous, as there is no longer an escape route for people on bikes. At times, especially during rush hour, there's aggressive or inconsiderate driver behaviour towards people on bikes, and this will not change if actual speeds are lowered to 50 km/h, which is too high a speed for people on bikes to safely mix with car traffic on an arterial road without a shoulder.

Our HUB committee has had a fair amount of feedback on this, and it is clear that many cyclists avoid 132nd Ave. because they just don't feel safe there.

We would like to see improvements to this corridor that benefit cyclists as well as drivers. As I mentioned, there are presently no shoulders, and cyclists depend on responsible and considerate driver behaviour to make it to their destination alive and well, which is problematic.

We've been told in the past that the pathway was an intermediate solution, and further improvements would happen for cycling to move towards a recreational roadway that is safe for all vulnerable road users, which is what local residents have fought for for years and what we have strongly supported.

Kind regards,

Jackie Chow
HUB Cycling
Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Chapter