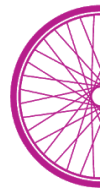




Your Cycling Connection

bikehub.ca



December 20, 2020

Kati Tamashiro
Manager, Transportation Design
City of Vancouver
(by email)

Dear Kati

Members of our HUB Cycling Vancouver UBC Local Committee identified the Balaclava Bikeway, running 6.7 km from Point Grey Road to the Fraser River Trail as being in need of improvements. We conducted an assessment ride, and we present here our observations, and recommendations on how this route can be made safer, and more comfortable, for local users.

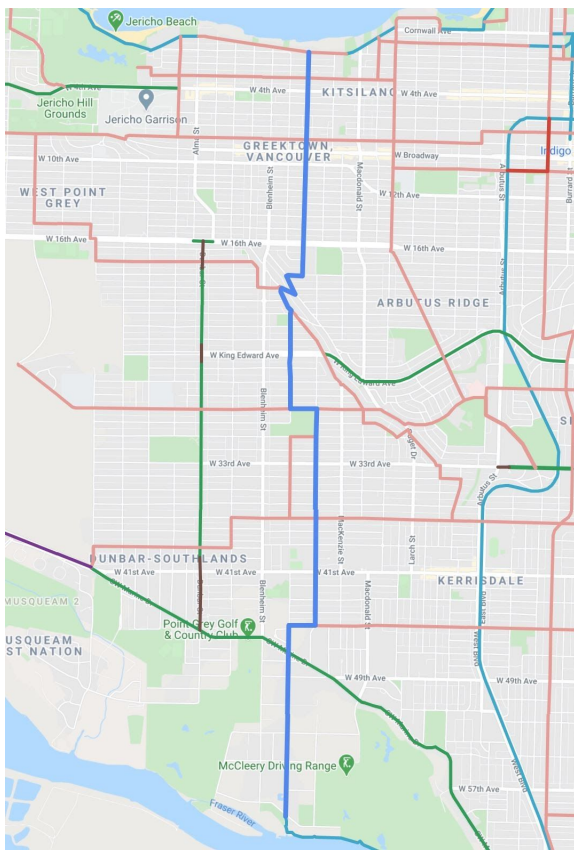


Figure 1 - Balaclava Bikeway

As can be seen in Figure 1, there are no adjacent bikeways that are continuous from Burrard Inlet through to the Fraser River. Dunbar is discontinuous, and was assessed by HUB Cycling’s State of Cycling report as comfortable for few or very few due to the lack of protection from vehicles.¹ Trafalgar is less direct, and doesn’t extend the full distance. The Arbutus Greenway is the nearest alternative, but is not close by. This makes the Balaclava

¹ HUB Cycling [State of Cycling Benchmarking Report](#), 2020

Bikeway more important, and we recommend it be upgraded to provide a more comfortable and safer route for those choosing to cycle.

The issues we observed are:

1. Poor signage northbound in the Puget Rd area. Signage is missing, or misleading. This is compounded by the fact that part of the Balaclava bikeway here is common to the Ridgeway bikeway. (The signage Southbound is slightly better.) See Figure 2.
2. The detour around Balaclava Park is confusing for first time riders, especially as it is possible to go straight through the park. Here also there is some confusion between the routes for the Balaclava bikeway, the Ridgeway Bikeway, and 29th avenue.
3. Difficulty crossing 3 busy east-west streets: West King Edward Avenue, West 16th Avenue and West 10th Avenue.
4. The poor condition of the road surface in a few areas, with large potholes dangerous for a person cycling; especially between 4th and 5th Avenues (both sides) and around 12th Avenue

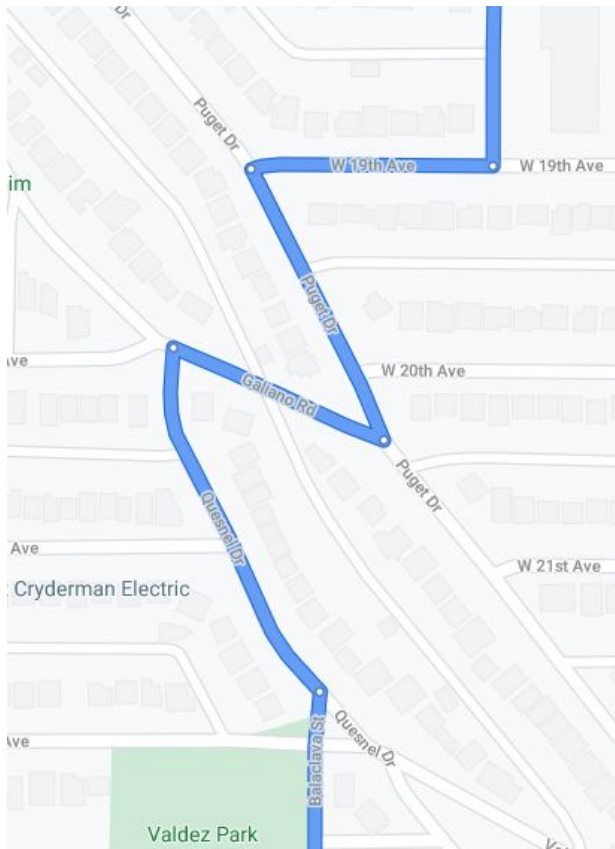


Figure 2: Bikeway between 19th and 23rd

An example of one of the challenging crossings can be seen in Figure 3. West 16th Avenue is difficult to cross. Recently a pedestrian crossing has been installed on the east side with buttons to activate a flashing yellow light, but there is no button for cyclists. The pedestrian ones are hard to reach for cyclists (especially Southbound).

The setting of this intersection was improved with consideration of people cycling, with protected curbs in the median of 16th, but this work was not completed with a signal crossing. See Figure 4.



Figure 3: Bikeway crossing 16th Ave



Figure 4: Bikeway crossing 16th Ave with new curbs

We ask that you plan for improvements to this route, and we are available to discuss our observations with you at your convenience. Please also include Philippe Kruchten, who led this ride for us, in these discussions.

Sincerely,

Jeff Leigh
Chair, Vancouver UBC Local Committee
HUB Cycling
Vancouver@bikehub.ca

Philippe Kruchten
Member, Vancouver UBC Local Committee
HUB Cycling
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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 that [#UnGapTheMap](#) to create a connected cycling network. HUB Cycling's mission is to get more people cycling more often. HUB Cycling has close to 3,000 members and more than 40,000 direct supporters. HUB Cycling has 10 volunteer committees across Metro Vancouver that encourage cycling for all ages and abilities (AAA) in municipalities across Metro Vancouver. For more information, visit bikehub.ca.