Re: Maple Ridge Commercial and Industrial Strategy Draft Implementation Plan; minutes Council Workshop June 9, 2014; Council Resolution: Create a commercial node at 248th and Dewdney Trunk Road

Mayor and Council,

As the District will be planning for a commercial node at Dewdney Trunk Road and 248th Street, I would like to point out that this would be a great opportunity to improve pedestrian and cycling access and safety along Dewdney Trunk Road in that area. As Garibaldi Secondary School is also located at that intersection, improvements would benefit the students at that school. As Maple Ridge further expands eastward, It is very important to plan for safe infrastructure for walking and cycling. Residents in the increasing number of larger lot developments outside the urban boundary are all car dependent by design and have to use Dewdney Trunk Road for most of their east-west travel. This means that improvements will be needed to ensure the safety and comfort of those walking and cycling, especially when most of those who (potentially could) get to school on their own power are youth and are not able to drive. This area is flat and has great potential for increased walking and cycling for neighbourhood residents as well. This will also reduce the need for parking in this commercial node.

I believe the plan for this area for walking and cycling is merely for the existing bike lane and gravel shoulder. A separated multi-use path would make a lot of sense here, as traffic is very busy, especially during rush hour, and considered too dangerous for many parents to allow their kids to walk to school.

Neighbourhood commercial nodes are essential if we want to get more people traveling shorter distances to do their daily shopping. Naturally, part of the plan needs to be safe infrastructure for those not traveling by car. I kindly request Mayor and Council to ensure pedestrian and cyclist safety is ensured when moving forward with this plan.

Kind regards,

Jackie Chow
*HUB: Your Cycling Connection*
*Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Chapter*