

Reference: 303342

July 12, 2021

Erin O'Melinn, Executive Director HUB Cycling 312 Main Street Vancouver BC V6A 2T2

Dear Erin O'Melinn:

Re: Cycling Funding

Thank you for your letter of May 17, 2021, on behalf of HUB Cycling, regarding cycling and active transportation funding.

We appreciated receiving HUB Cycling's support of the additional funding for active transportation that was announced as part of Budget 2021. Our <u>Active Transportation Strategy</u> aims to double the percentage of trips taken by this type of transportation by 2030. Our government's commitment of \$36 million for active transportation infrastructure from 2021 to 2025 will support us in achieving this goal.

As you note, British Columbians have shown a growing interest in active transportation during the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, the provincial government provided an additional \$16.7 million toward dozens of active transportation improvements through Stronger BC: BC's Economic Recovery Plan. Improvements have been made to multi-use pathways, rail trails, highway crossings, sidewalks, road shoulders and lighting on provincial infrastructure across the province, including many projects in the Lower Mainland

In line with our active transportation strategy, we prioritize expanding active transportation and public transit whenever the ministry builds new infrastructure or plans regional transportation strategies. This approach is reflected, for example, in the business case for the George Massey Crossing Project, which includes the proposed Corridor Improvements and an evaluation of potential crossing options. Multi-use pathways for pedestrians and cyclists are considered for all crossing options as well as for the Corridor Improvements along Highway 99.

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I appreciate that HUB Cycling members have been working closely with ministry staff on the new pedestrian and cycling connections as part of the Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project and other ministry projects, such as improvements along Highway 1 between 264th Street and Whatcom Road in the Fraser Valley. An important part of this work includes upgrades to active transportation connections across Highway 1 as part of interchange and structure replacements along the corridor. In addition, ministry staff are committed to ensuring the existing cycling connections along Highway 1 between 216th and 264th streets in Langley are maintained or enhanced as part of widening along this route to facilitate a safe, friendly environment for both commuter and recreational cyclists.

As well, to support pedestrians, cyclists and other forms of active transportation, the ministry's Salmon Arm West Four-Laning Project between 1st Avenue and 10th Avenue will includes a multi-use pathway for pedestrians, cyclists and other forms of active transportation. The ministry's Chase Four-Laning Project includes widened shoulders and highway underpasses.

We are committed to making active transportation, such as cycling, safer and more accessible for everyone, and you can be sure we will consider your suggestions as we continue to implement the Active Transportation Strategy.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Rob Fleming

Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

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Minister of State for Infrastructure