

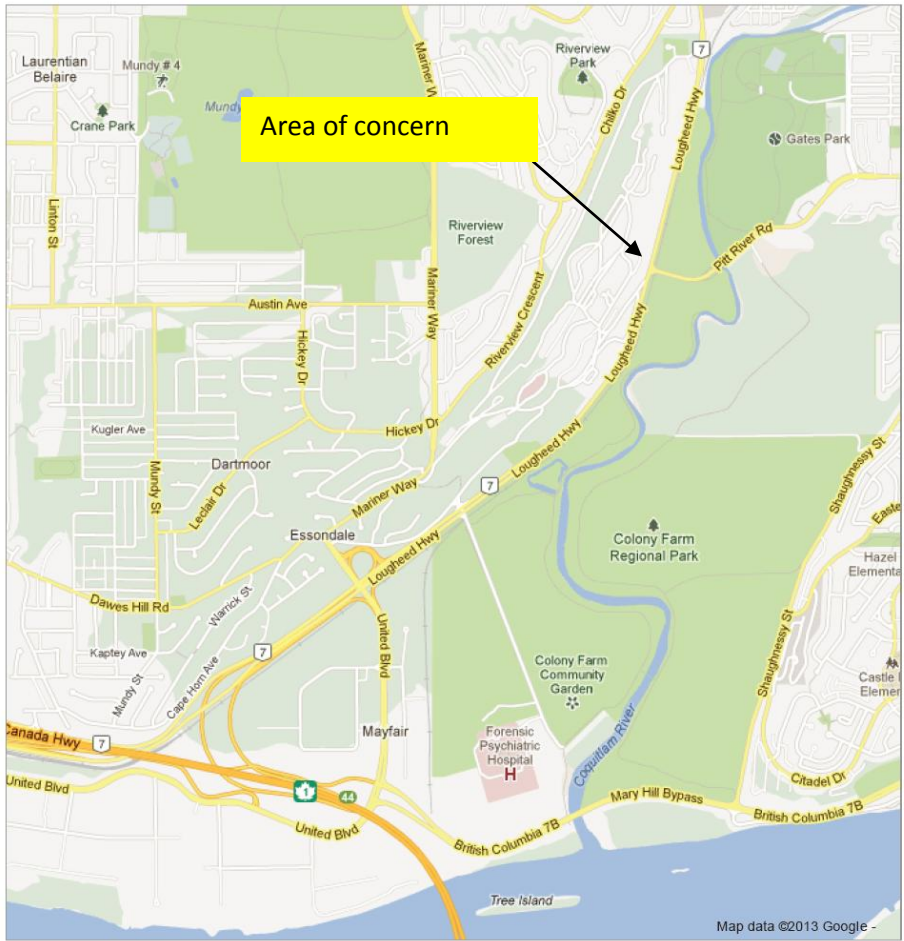
Report on Cycling/Pedestrian facilities at Pitt River Road and Lougheed Highway (Coquitlam)

DRAFT (March 3, 2013)

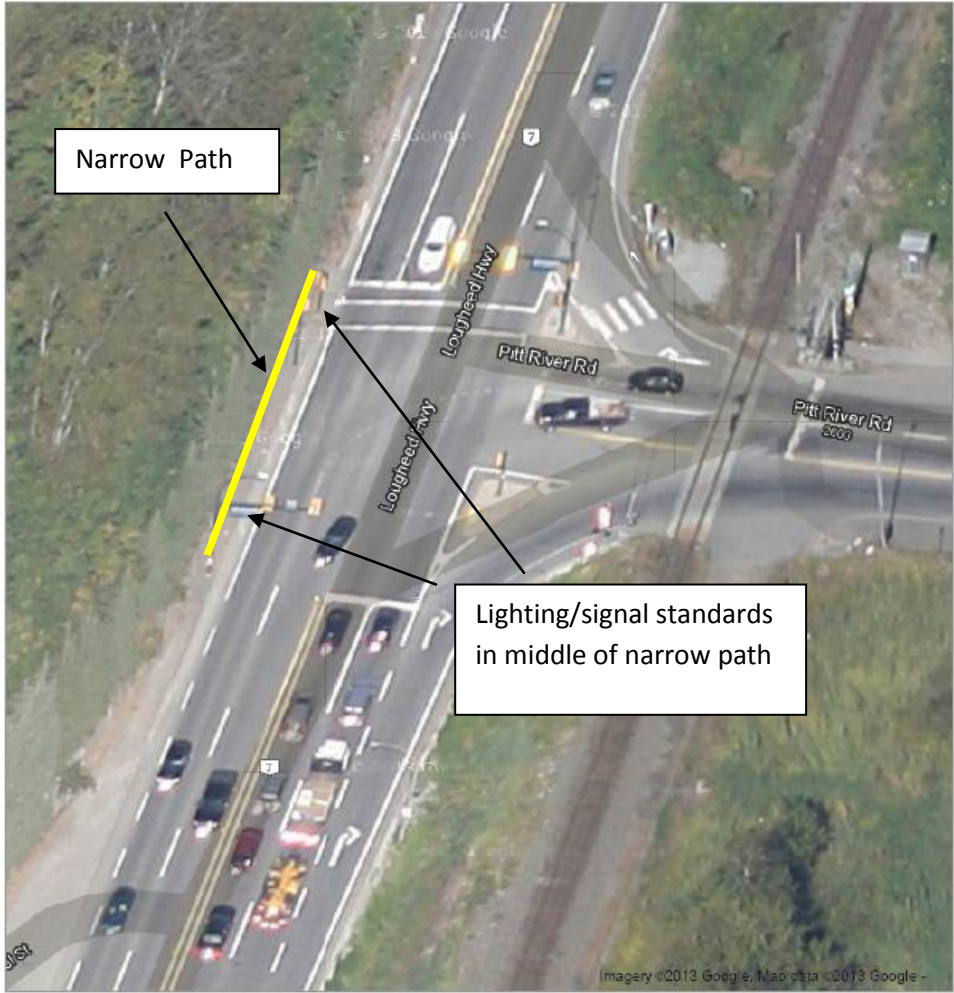
Overview

Lougheed highway is currently a barrier to mobility of pedestrians and cyclists in the area of Riverview hospital. The regional cycling/pedestrian network also suffers from a serious lack of connectivity between Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam. The intersection of Pitt River Road and Lougheed highway has a pedestrian activated crossing which in principle could serve as an important route for cyclists and pedestrian to cross this challenging area. Unfortunately, this crossing is essentially unusable at present due to an extremely narrow “sidewalk” on the west side of Lougheed that is impassable for cyclists, and barely navigable for pedestrians. The main problems are (1) the narrowness of the path, due to the location of traffic barriers (2) the presence of lamp standards/traffic signals right in the middle of this narrow path.

At present nobody uses this intersection for obvious reasons. Looking at a map, however this is an obvious connector point both for commuter and recreational cyclists, as well as pedestrians accessing Riverview and surrounding areas. It is our opinion that this intersection could be made much more friendly for cyclists and pedestrians by some simple fixes: (1) moving the barriers further into the roadway. Even one foot would make a big difference (2) relocating the bases of one or more of the traffic light standards.



Overview of area in question



Intersection of Pitt River Road and Loughheed highway. Yellow line indicates problem area.



Google street view looking west from Pitt River Road. Cars are travelling north on Lougheed.

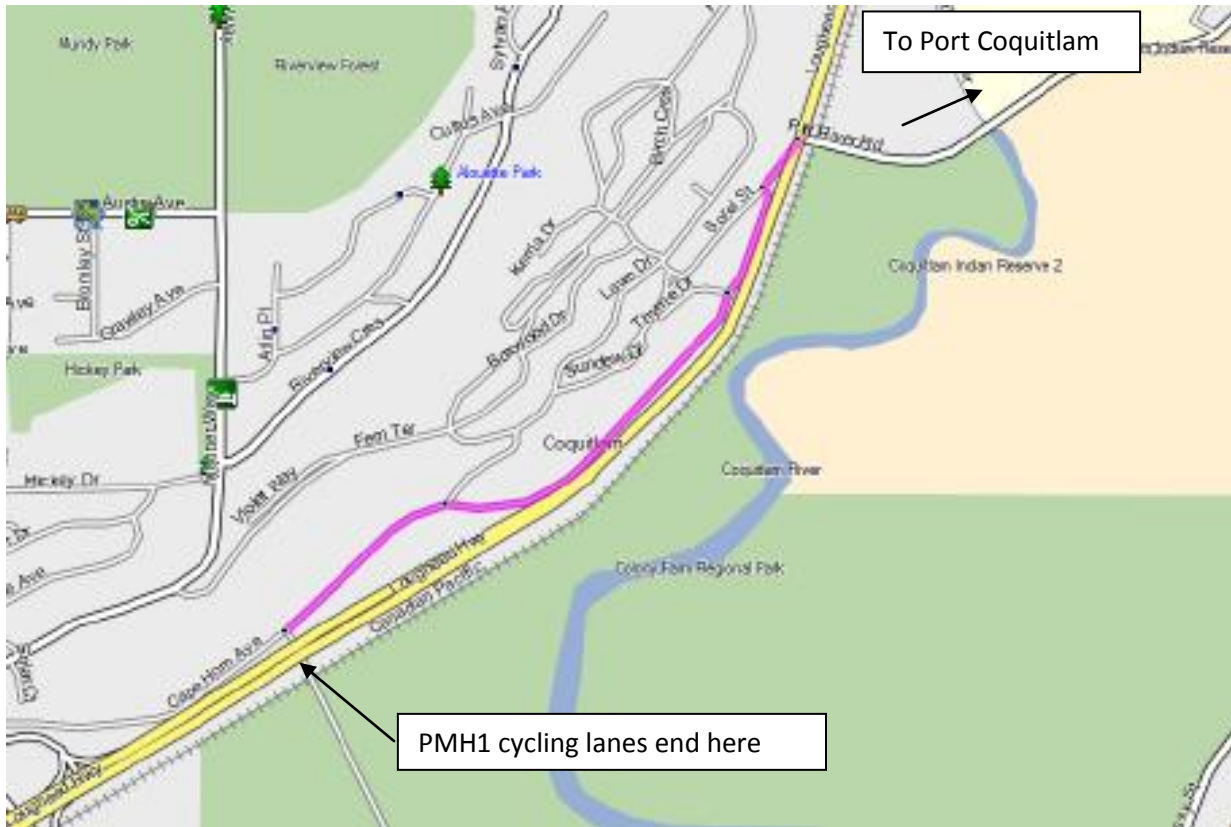


Looking south along Lougheed from the intersection



Looking north along Lougheed towards the intersection.

Overview of possible connector route to Pitt River Road:



Pink line shows how the intersection could be used by cyclists to connect with the new PMH1 cycling infrastructure on Lougheed. The route through Riverview lands is on existing roads with very low traffic volumes and would allow them to bypass the very dangerous portion of Lougheed between Colony Farms and Pitt River road. No additional improvements would be needed other than fixing the Pitt River Road intersection.

The route would also enable access for Coquitlam residents in the Cape Horn/Mariner area to access the PoCo trail north of the Red Bridge (Coquitlam river and Pitt River Road). It would also connect with existing and proposed bike networks in the City of Port Coquitlam.

Prepared by TriCities HUB Committee, March 2, 2013