



To: Jamie Vala, Park Planner, Central Area Regional Parks, Metro Vancouver

Re: HUB recommendations regarding the preferred route for the Sheep Paddock's trail

Date: 11 February 2014

HUB: Your Cycling Connection is a charitable organization that works to make cycling better through education, events and collaboration. We are Metro Vancouver's leader in making cycling an attractive choice for everyone.

We would like to take this opportunity to provide feedback regarding the design options for the proposed Sheep Paddocks trail refurbishment. HUB strongly supports the re-opening of this trail which was widely used by recreational cyclists and walkers prior to its closure in 2007. The old route followed the river bank (see attachment 1 showing our GPS tracks taken in 2005) and basically follows options 1A and 2A from the Sheep Paddocks Trail Alignment Analysis Final Report (reference 1). The terrain is flat, scenic, and quite suitable for beginning and young cyclists with their families. For several years, the trail provided much needed connectivity for recreational cyclists coming from Port Coquitlam and Coquitlam towards Colony Farms regional park. Given the large investment proposed in the present design scenarios, it is very important that a wide range of users be allowed to access the proposed trail system. Cycling is a key part of the long term vision of Metro Vancouver in terms of promoting healthy lifestyles and sustainable transportation alternatives.

The proposed trail would greatly facilitate the access of recreational cyclists to the Colony Farm region. It would provide a key link between the PoCo Trail system and the Colony Farms regional park. It would also provide an important linkage with the Experience the Fraser trail initiative, which is advocated by Metro Vancouver (reference 2). Furthermore the trail would provide access from new Port Mann Bridge cycling facilities via the Colony Farms trail system to points north and west. The trail would provide access for recreational riders as an alternative to the highly dangerous Lougheed highway section between Pitt River Road and Colony Farms Road, which is basically a no go zone for cyclists and pedestrians.

In its 2010 Strategic Plan, Metro Vancouver introduced the concept of a Regional Recreation Greenway Network (map 10, reference 3) which links the regional parks. This map shows a proposed greenway through Colony Farm and heading toward Belcarra. The proposed trail would provide an important link in this vision.

Preferred route:

In terms of the proposed route alignments, we prefer route 1A/2B as the best compromise in terms of ease of integration of cyclists and walkers. It does not require



extensive use of boardwalks and it minimizes the impact of the trail on the riparian environment (compared with route 1B). It is also a more direct route in terms of facilitating connectivity between different parts of the region. As a bonus we note that the 1A/2B option is also the least expensive and would require the minimum amount of tree removal (compared with routes involving 1B). Finally, HUB would also support the 1A/1B option but not if it is at the expense of access to recreational cyclists.

Summary:

The re-opening of the Sheep Paddocks trail is long overdue and greatly welcomed by the regional cycling community. We prefer to see the 1A/2B alignment but would support any of the options proposed, as long as they were compatible with all users, including cyclists. Finally we note that the cycling option is also supported by Trails BC Southwest as well as the BC Cycling coalition.

Simon Watkins

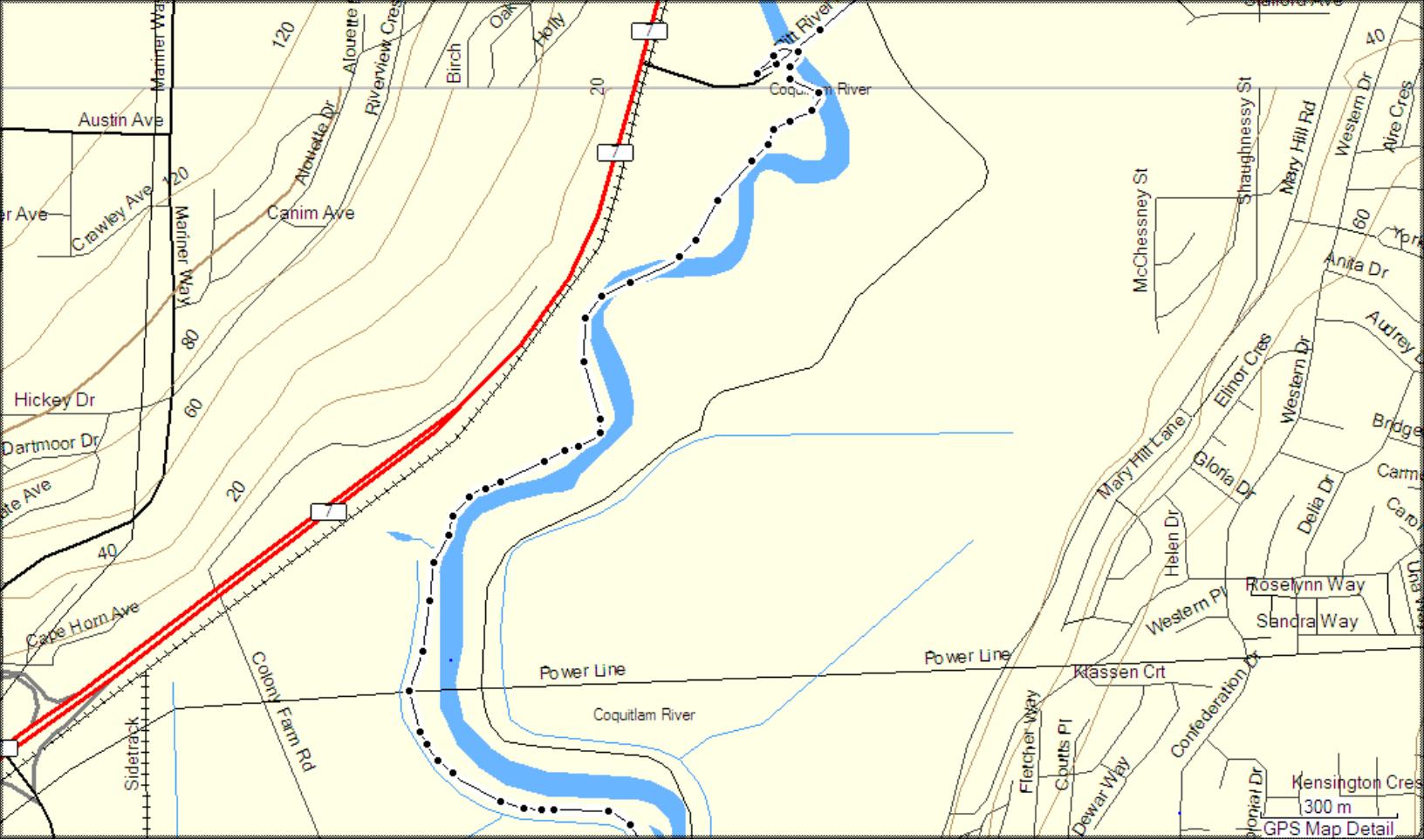
Jack Trumley

Co-chairs, TriCities Committee of HUB

References:

1. Sheep Paddocks Trail Alignment Analysis Final Report, prepared by Lees and Associates for Metro Vancouver,
http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/parks_lscr/ColonyFarmCurrentInitiatives/ColonyFarmDocs/SheepPaddocksTrailAlignmentAnalysisReport-BODY.pdf
2. Experience the Fraser Concept Plan:
http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/parks_lscr/ExperiencetheFraser/Pages/default.aspx
3. Metro Vancouver Regional growth Strategy, 2010, <https://vancouver.ca/docs/eastern-core/regional-growth-strategy.pdf>

Attachment: 2005 GPS waypoints of old trail route.



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