May 15, 2012

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of HUB’s (previously VACC) Vancouver/UBC Advocacy Committee, we are writing in regards to the Wednesday May 16th Planning, Transportation and Environment meeting and specifically agenda item #2 "Active Transportation Capital Projects".

We appreciate that there are many positive actions planned in the capital projects proposal, we are looking forward to their implementation and recognize the work that staff has put into balancing the many interests involved in these efforts.

We are, however, concerned with the changes proposed for 45th Ave east of Nanaimo along the Ridgeway Greenway. We are disappointed that staff has decided to remove the diverters that were installed to calm traffic along the bike route. We understand that the diverters have made the route much more comfortable to cycle on and that removing them will increase traffic on 45th significantly. We also understand that there has been considerable neighbourhood concerns expressed regarding the negative traffic effects in the neighbourhood from having the diverters in place and that this creates a challenge for staff to balance the conflicting interests.

Consequently, we wish to make the following points:

1. We are concerned that vehicle traffic on the route will create a situation whereby the Ridgeway route is not safe and comfortable for cyclists without the diverters in place
2. We understand that there are plans to put in 2 raised sidewalks and 4 pedestrian bulges as well as to monitor traffic along the route if the diverters are removed. We would like to see greater traffic calming measures in place, perhaps the speed bumps mentioned in the report and/or more raised sidewalks in order to mitigate the effects of greater traffic flow. We would expect that if the monitoring shows that the traffic flow along the route is unsustainable for a major cycling artery, that changes to correct the situation would be implemented.

Best Regards,
Lisa Slakov and Heather Harvey
Co-Chairs, HUB Vancouver/UBC Committee