



25-Jul-2017

Tamsin Guppy
Development Planner
District of North Vancouver, Community Planning Department

Cc: Mayor and Council, District of North Vancouver
Virginia Bird, Community Relations, Leisure Lodge Ltd & Musson Cattell Mackay
Partnership

Re:
**Comfort Inn/Best Western Redevelopment, 1634 & 1748 Capilano
Road**

Dear Ms. Guppy,

HUB Cycling is a charitable non-profit organization whose staff, board, regional advisory committee and ten local volunteer committees represent over 34,000 active contacts and 2,000 members. HUB Cycling works to improve cycling in Metro Vancouver through action, education and events because more cycling means healthier, happier, more connected communities.

On July 13th, the developer for 1634 & 1748 Capilano Road presented their current proposal to the HUB North Shore committee. We had an informative discussion and are excited about the potential for improved active transportation in this portion of the Lions Gate Village Centre.

During the presentation and discussion the HUB North Shore committee noted the following three areas where the facilities could be improved to achieve the District's goals of active transportation and cycling for people of all ages and abilities:

1. Capilano Road bike lanes

The current plan for the section of Capilano Road adjacent to 1634 & 1748 is to have an unprotected cycle lane (painted line) next to two very busy lanes of vehicular traffic. Studies have shown that unprotected cycle lanes are both more dangerous and less appealing than protected ones. For this reason, we recommend that the cycle lanes be moved to the other side of the landscape buffer, next to, but separated from, the pedestrian sidewalk. The resulting configuration would then be (from the centre) two lanes of traffic, landscaping buffer, bike lane and the pedestrian sidewalk. It is critical that the bike lane (which will be heavily used by commuters) be separated from the pedestrian sidewalk, perhaps via a small elevation difference and different surface materials, to avoid collisions and user conflict commonly found on multi-use paths. This configuration works well on the north side of Pacific Street, west of Burrard Street in Vancouver, where limited space does not allow for a landscaped buffer between the sidewalk and the protected raised cycle lane.



2. Intersection McGuire Avenue – Capilano Road

The intersection at McGuire Ave and Capilano Road has the protected cycle lane and pedestrian sidewalk merging to a shared use area at the corner with a shared curb let down. We recommend that this be changed to the protected intersection design that the District is planning to use for the Mountain Highway corridor in Lynn Creek Town Centre. The protected intersection design is much safer for all users and will avoid unnecessary conflicts between people on bike and on foot.

3. Residential bike facilities

We are pleased to learn that the District is allowing a reduction in the number of parking spaces in developments when sustainable transportation alternatives are provided. However, unlike neighbouring municipalities, the District of North Vancouver does not currently have a bylaw for Class A bike parking. For example, the City of North Vancouver requires 1.5 bike parking spaces per dwelling unit.

HUB Cycling recently conducted research on cycling end of trip facilities including the challenges, best practices and ideas for policy changes. The full report may be found here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3ljv9eFsvVzVXgzQ3NWbDNBbkU/view>

We recommend that the District review and revise their bylaws for bike parking and other bike facilities in new developments based on the information in the report and experience with completed multi-family developments in the District. The number of spaces per unit should also take into account the growth in cycling for transportation over the lifespan of the residential buildings. We also recommend that the residential component of the proposed development include a bike workshop for residents to perform basic bike maintenance.

Finally, could you please provide us with an updated design for Capilano Road and McGuire Avenue for our review and input when it becomes available?

The HUB North Shore committee supports the District's efforts towards improving cycling for all ages and abilities in North Vancouver. If you have any questions about the above concerns or recommendations, please contact us.

Yours Truly,

Tony Valente
Chair, North Shore Committee

HUB: Your Cycling Connection
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