



Your Cycling Connection

bikehub.ca



January 9, 2021

To Mayor West, Council, and Engineering staff,

Re: Recommendations for the Fremont Connector bike route

The Tri-Cities HUB Local Committee is very excited to see that Port Coquitlam is planning a bike route that will run parallel to the new Fremont Connector. This north-south route will connect people cycling with Burke Mountain neighbourhood routes, the multi-use path on Prairie Avenue, future multi-use paths on Cedar Drive and Victoria Drive, the Minnehada dike trails, the PoCo Trail, shopping, restaurants, breweries, and the Pitt River Bridge.

Furthermore, as the map below shows, the Fremont Connector's multi-use path will significantly improve the grid of safe bike routes in Port Coquitlam north of Lougheed Highway. A grid layout makes it easier for people to find their way and provides more direct connections for people biking. We believe that this will significantly help cycling uptake in the area.

Tri-Cities HUB have been delighted to see the progress Port Coquitlam has made in recent years in ensuring its cycling infrastructure is safer for all ages and abilities through facilities such as the Kingsway multi-use path, the Prairie Avenue multi-use path, and the new, wider McAllister footbridge and McAllister multi-use path. We ask that the city build on that progress by ensuring high-quality lighting is used on the incoming Fremont Connector project, and the existing Dominion Avenue and Fremont Connector bike lanes are given protective barriers to enable better connectivity for northeast Port Coquitlam, as well as upgrades to certain intersections along the route.

We are writing to respectfully ask that the City of Port Coquitlam ensure that this route is safe, protected, paved, and comfortable for people of all abilities to cycle end to end, all the way from Cedar Drive to the Pitt River Bridge. We are specifically hopeful that all intersections, in particular at Cedar Drive and Victoria and Belfast Street and the Fremont Connector, and those on the existing Fremont Connector, will have thoughtful treatments so that people riding bikes feel safe for its entire distance. We would also like to see adequate lighting to make the facility feel safe for most users at night. We hope maintenance is taken seriously, with prompt, frequent, and preventative clearing of snow, ice, and debris.

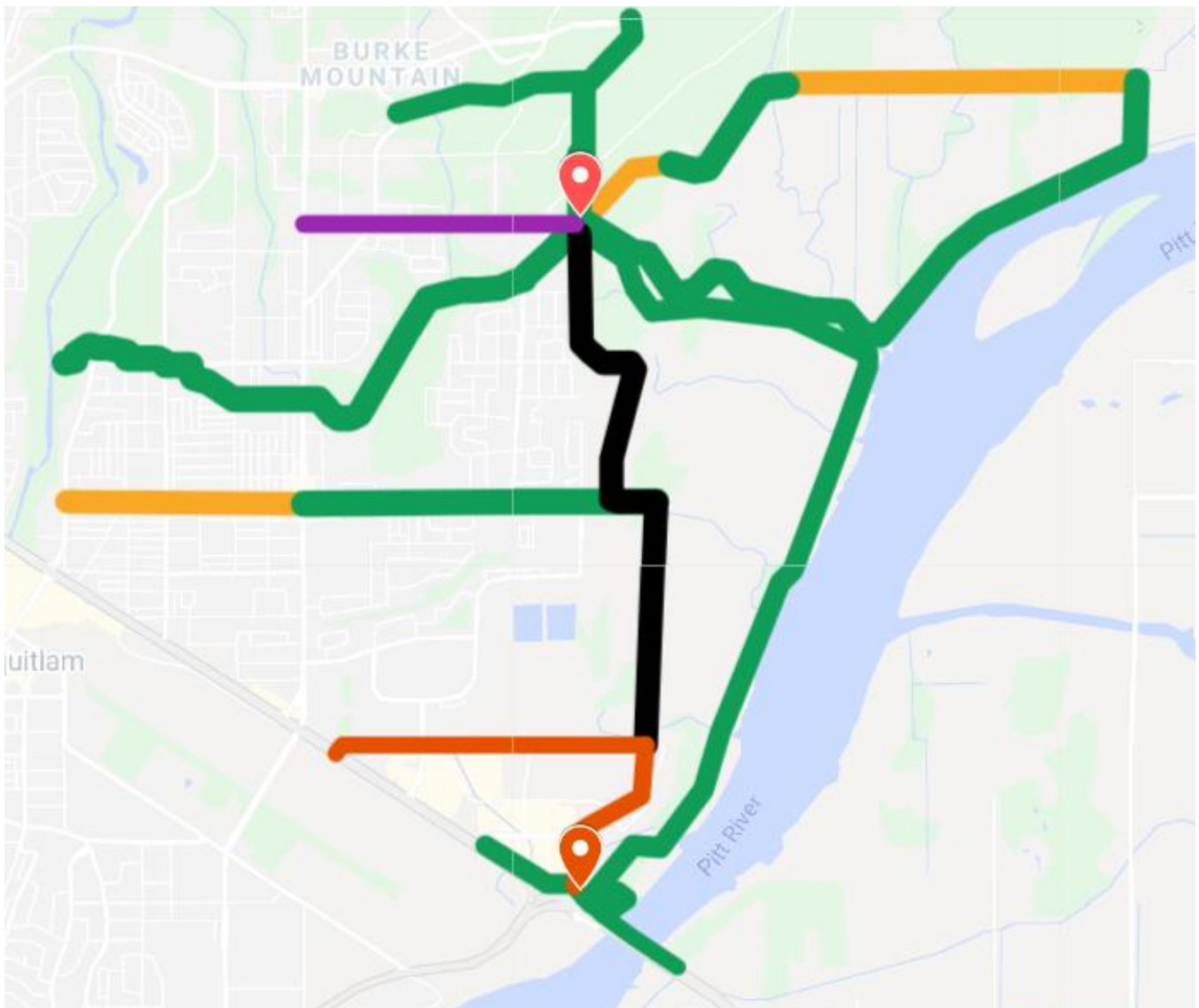
If we can finesse these details to make this route safe and comfortable for most people on bikes for its entire distance, we will maximize its ability to reduce auto traffic, an intended project goal. Conversely, if an otherwise nice route has one or two dangerous intersections, or a few blocks that have an unsafe atmosphere at night, this can have a significant negative effect on its overall usability for most people. Cedar and Victoria features a blind corner for people walking and biking in which it's not always possible to see vehicles coming around the corner, placing people walking and biking in the way of significant harm. In addition, crossings in all directions at Belfast Street and the Fremont Connector are poor and place people biking in the way of exceptional harm with the crossings often difficult to make and without any proper procedures apparent. Let's try to get these details right.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Hartline and Colin Fowler
Co-Chairs, HUB Cycling Tri-Cities
tri-cities@bikehub.ca

About HUB Cycling

HUB Cycling is a charitable not for profit organization that has spent over 22 years removing barriers to cycling in Metro Vancouver, while cultivating the health, environmental, and economic benefits that active transportation can bring. HUB has educated thousands of people, motivated thousands more, and championed improvements that [#UnGapTheMap](#) to create a connected cycling network. HUB Cycling's mission is to get more people cycling more often. HUB Cycling has close to 3,000 members and more than 45,000 direct supporters. HUB Cycling has 10 volunteer committees across Metro Vancouver that encourage cycling for all ages and abilities (AAA) in municipalities across Metro Vancouver. For more information, visit bikehub.ca.



The Fremont Connector is shown in black. Existing and under-construction high-quality connections are shown in green, upcoming connections are in orange, and phased connections built by development are shown in purple. The two red lines and points showcase existing bike lanes and intersections, respectively, that could use safety upgrades as part of the Fremont Connector project.