

November 28, 2024

The Honourable Ravi Kahlon
Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs
Province of British Columbia

Re: Improving Bike Parking Accessibility in New and Existing Buildings

Dear Minister Kahlon,

On behalf of HUB Cycling, I am pleased via this letter to provide the BC Ministry of Housing with strategic recommendations to support improved and expanded bicycle and e-bike parking in new and existing buildings. [HUB Cycling](https://www.hubcycling.ca) is a charitable not-for-profit organization that has been removing barriers to cycling across BC for over 25 years, while cultivating the health, environment, and economic benefits that active transportation can bring. We have over 4,000 members and an opt-in communications list of 65,000 supporters.

Through our diverse programming, initiatives, and partner communications related to urban cycling, HUB Cycling's volunteers and staff have identified the following opportunities for the Province of BC to make strategic policy changes related to residential, retail and office buildings. These changes will promote more convenient and accessible cycling, and also help to address affordability by encouraging and supporting the most affordable, sustainable and healthy personal transportation mode.

We recommend the following policy changes to improve cycling accessibility in new and existing buildings:

- 1. Define minimum municipal bike parking and cycling amenities bylaw requirements for all new multi-family residential and commercial / retail / office buildings.** Currently every BC municipality is able to define its own unique building bylaw requirements for bike parking and related amenities, and many municipalities' current bylaws are not reflective of broader provincial active transportation and vehicle reduction targets. This is a particularly important issue in context of recent provincial policy changes designed to promote Transit Oriented Developments (TODs). Standardized minimum provincial bylaw requirements would ensure that a sufficient quality and quantity of cycling facilities are built in all new buildings, not just where individual municipalities have taken a lead on developing strong bylaws. HUB Cycling recommends that the Province of BC provide minimum cycling amenities bylaw requirements for all new buildings throughout BC.

Both Vancouver and Coquitlam have excellent existing cycling design and amenities requirements for buildings which could inform provincial requirements. HUB Cycling has compiled a comparative list of bike amenities bylaw requirements for all major Metro Vancouver municipalities to illustrate their relative strengths and deficiencies. Please see attached.

2. **Prohibit municipalities from banning the conversion of vehicle parking spaces to bike parking spaces due to outdated existing minimum car parking requirements.** Currently some municipalities permit stratas and owners to convert over-capacity car parking spaces to bike parking, which provides the opportunity to expand bike parking in older buildings that have insufficient capacity given growing demand. Generally there are few other areas in older buildings where bike parking can be added. Unfortunately, some municipalities either do not allow for such conversions, or pose significant process and cost barriers to doing so (eg: requiring existing car parking spaces be retained regardless of evolving demand). HUB Cycling recommends that the Province of BC require municipalities to allow stratas or building owners to make decisions based on demand regarding converting car parking spaces into bike parking, provided all applicable / reasonable safety requirements are met.
3. **Legally require that all e-bicycles and e-scooters, and replacement chargers and batteries, sold in BC meet safety standards (e.g. UL certification)** to lower fire hazards posed by e-battery and charger malfunctions.
4. **Launch a “Cycling in Older Buildings Retrofit Program” to support older buildings in adding/improving their bike parking, including providing rebates.** In BC, younger families are increasingly seeking housing with bike parking for all family members along with room for family and cargo bikes. And the advent of e-bikes is quickly increasing the number of people interested in cycling. But many BC buildings developed in previous decades are lacking in secure, accessible and convenient bike parking. HUB Cycling has the established expertise and capacities through its [Bike Friendly Buildings Program](#) and knowledge gained through its [Cycling and Older Buildings Research](#) to deliver a program that supports building managers and stratas to strategically retrofit older residential buildings with bike parking and related facilities. HUB Cycling would be keen to partner on launching such a program.
5. **HUB Cycling also recommends that the Province of BC restrict residential building owners, managers, and stratas from:**
 - Charging fees to building residents / users for basic bike parking - fees, if absolutely necessary, should only apply for premium bike parking (eg: custom lockers). All building users should have basic secure bike parking available at no cost;
 - Repurposing existing bike storage space, defined by building bylaws, to other purposes without replacing it with bike storage space of comparable quality and accessibility;
 - Prohibiting residents from parking bicycles in their designated vehicle parking spots in addition to their personal automobiles; Ideally stratas should also allow for single bike racks to be installed in parking stalls, wherever feasible.
 - Prohibiting bike storage in residential suites or office spaces where a sufficient quantity of accessible and secure bike parking is not otherwise provided.
 - Prohibiting the storage and charging of e-bikes and e-scooters, where those devices meet safety standards (see bullet 3 above).

Thanks in advance for your consideration of these recommendations. We would be delighted to meet to discuss.



Sincerely,
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CC:

- The Honourable Mike Farnworth - Ministry of Transportation and Transit
- Lee Nicol, E.D. of Built Environment - Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions
- Elaine Cross, E.D. of Climate Partners and Engagement, Ministry of Environment and Parks
- Trish Rorison, E.D. of Clean Transportation and Programs - Ministry of Transportation and Transit
- Kate Berniaz, Director of Clean and Active Transportation - Ministry of Transportation and Transit
- Jen Petersen , ED - BC Cycling Coalition
- Laura Jane, E.D. - HUB Cycling

Attachment:

- Metro Vancouver Municipal Bike Parking By-Laws