

May 16, 2023

To: Mayor and Council
Samantha Maki, Director of Engineering, City of Pitt Meadows
Alina Torres, Manager of Engineering & Facilities, City of Pitt Meadows

Re: Active Transportation Network Review

Our Maple Ridge / Pitt Meadows local committee of HUB Cycling would like to provide comments regarding the draft Active Transportation Plan.

We are encouraged that Pitt Meadows is re-visiting this important aspect of transportation since the current Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan is now over ten years old.

A lot of the minor improvements suggested in the 2012 plan have been completed and the standards and best practices for active transportation have evolved significantly since that older plan was created. As well, more development has occurred and is being planned mostly in the centre and south end of the city. Transportation improvements are also being planned by higher levels of government. Finally, the use of electric bikes and other forms of micro-mobility have expanded dramatically.

Pitt Meadows has a small urban area and as such is well suited to encourage all forms of active transportation. The report indicates that 85% of residents want to use active transportation more and 58% are held back by the state of the current network. By building out a complete all ages and abilities (AAA) network, the city will make it possible for most trips to be made by walking, cycling or use of mobility aids.

The draft Active Transportation Network Review is a good plan for the city. The plan to make Harris Road a complete street is welcomed since Harris Road is Pitt Meadows' main street and has a lot of destinations for the community. Hammond Road is the major east west connection in the residential area and would benefit from the recommended protected bike lanes. The implementation priorities chart (6.1) rightly places these improvements at the top.

The Parkside Trail multi-use path (MUP) follows next in priority. This project would be a good one to do now since it will tie into the Golden Ears Business Park MUP which is under construction right now and some of the costs could be covered. As well, with some sidewalk widening on the west side of Harris it would result in a good connection to the Airport / Mitchell Trail.

During the presentation of the draft plan to City Council one of the council members suggested that a 30 km/hr speed limit should be put in place for all neighbourhood (local) streets. We heartily agree with this suggestion since it would reduce the risk of serious injury in any potential collisions between vehicles and vulnerable road users. Setting lower default neighbourhood speed limits is widely recommended by health agencies, including the World Health Organization and BC's Provincial Health Officer. Most people want slower speeds in their neighbourhoods: in a survey by the

Canadian Automobile Association, 94% of respondents reported that speeding on residential streets was a serious threat to their personal safety. This speed reduction would have very little impact on travel times for drivers and would result in a much more livable space for the residents.

We agree with increasing the ATAC budget to at least \$200k to cover the smaller items in the plan. The larger ticket items will have to make their way into the capital plan and we encourage the city to begin that process. In order to take advantage of grant funding it would be good to have several "shovel ready" projects in the hopper.

We hope the city will consider the Harris Road complete street project a priority and find room for it in the current capital plan.

As the implementation of this new plan unfolds, opportunities for getting around our community using AAA facilities will greatly increase. With the addition of wayfinding signage we can encourage community members to use active means to get to their destinations in and around our city.

We encourage council to heartily endorse this new Active Transportation Network Review and to begin implementing the priorities as listed in the plan as soon as possible.

Sincerely

Jackie Chow
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PJ/EoM/JC/JL

About HUB Cycling

HUB Cycling is a charitable not for profit organization that has spent 25 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.