

October 30, 2023

To: Mayor and Council <[legislativeservices@burnaby.ca](mailto:legislativeservices@burnaby.ca)>

Cc: Amy Choh <[amy.choh@burnaby.ca](mailto:amy.choh@burnaby.ca)>, Po Sun <[po.sun@burnaby.ca](mailto:po.sun@burnaby.ca)>

The Burnaby Local Committee of HUB Cycling would like to call your attention to Elephants' Feet/Crossbike markings and areas for improvement. Burnaby still has not enacted a bylaw that includes Elephants' Feet where people cycling can cross streets without dismounting despite many crosswalks having Elephants' Feet markings.

The term "Elephant's Feet" for combined crossings for both people walking and cycling is one of several standard markings that many other municipalities have adopted. People on cycles need not dismount to use these crossings. Vancouver, BC identifies these markings as:

“Elephants' Feet markings' means a series of white painted squares that delineate a crosswalk where cycling is permitted” (Vancouver By-Law No. 11992).

The City of Burnaby has been creating marked crosswalks with "Elephants' Feet" without an appropriate bylaw in place for many years now. Some crossings with Elephants' Feet are marked with signage indicating pedestrian and bicycle traffic are allowed, while many do not have such signage. This inconsistent messaging is confusing for all active transportation users, and is not aligned with the Motor Vehicle Act.

In 2019 the previous Traffic Safety committee directed staff to look into the inclusion of Elephants' Feet/Crossbike markings, but nothing seems to have come of this recommendation.<sup>1</sup>

The silence of Burnaby's bylaws with respect to Elephants' Feet can also be interpreted as that the Motor Vehicle Act (MVA) applies, even if the crossing is signed, and only pedestrians are allowed to cross in a crosswalk.

Municipalities are clearly given the power to regulate the "control or prohibition" of traffic in a crosswalk by Part 3 Section 124 of the MVA, but the City of Burnaby has not created a bylaw to enact this section of the MVA.

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<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://pub-burnaby.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId%3D43942&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1698539276535950&usg=AOvVaw1LLnz5Pp215m7LqJfAXyys>

The National Association of City Transportation Officials in their crossing design guide indicates the following benefits for ensuring Crossbike (Elephants Feet) and other road markings are in place:

- Raises awareness for both bicyclists and motorists to potential conflict areas.
- Reinforces that through bicyclists have priority over turning vehicles or vehicles entering the roadway (from driveways or cross streets).
- Guides bicyclists through the intersection in a straight and direct path.
- Reduces bicyclist stress by delineating the bicycling zone.
- Makes bicycle movements more predictable.
- Increases the visibility of bicyclists.
- Reduces conflicts between bicyclists and turning motorists.<sup>2</sup>

We request that council direct staff to:

(a) draft an "Elephants' Feet" Bylaw to be discussed by council as expediently as possible,

(b) ensure that Elephants' Feet are applied in a consistent manner with appropriate signage on cycling routes in the City.

Thank you for your attention,

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Co-Chair  
HUB Cycling, Burnaby Local Committee  
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### **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](http://bikehub.ca).

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<sup>2</sup> <https://nacto.org/publication/urban-bikeway-design-guide/intersection-treatments/intersection-crossing-markings/>