



January 4, 2017

Mike de Jong, Minister of Finance
Member of Legislative Assembly, Abbotsford West

Ralph Sultan,
Member of Legislative Assembly, West Vancouver–Capilano

Jane Thornthwaite,
Member of Legislative Assembly, North Vancouver–Seymour

Naomi Yamamoto,
Member of Legislative Assembly, North Vancouver–Lonsdale

Jordon Sturdy
Member of Legislative Assembly, West Vancouver–Sea-to-Sky

Re: Financial Incentives to Encourage the Purchase of Electric Assist Bikes

Dear Minister de Jong and North Shore MLAs,

This is a joint letter from HUB Cycling and the North Shore Safe Routes Advocates.

North Shore Safe Routes Advocates is a group of local parents working directly with the District of North Vancouver to establish safe routes to school, active transportation initiatives, and sustainable transportation infrastructure.

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 in our work to improve cycling in Metro Vancouver through action, education and events. We believe that more cycling means healthier, happier, more connected communities.

This letter expresses our joint support for the removal of the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) and the provision of a rebate to encourage increased purchase and use of electric assist bikes (e-bikes). Through Bike BC and contributions to Translink, the province has continued to invest in bike infrastructure across the Lower Mainland. The success of improvements in bike infrastructure are obvious as participation in Bike to Work Week has grown and will likely reach 20,000 participants in 2017. Closer to home in North Vancouver, participants cycled 66,000 km, an increase of 57 % over the previous year.

Still, more can be done to encourage cycling over greater distances with the elimination of the PST on electric bikes and the implementation of rebates to encourage purchases of e-bikes. In our communities on the North Shore, e-bikes allow senior citizens and those commuting to work to cover longer distances, but most importantly, to conquer the difficult topography in our area.

The Province has invested in North Shore bike routes through BikeBC funding and made both the Ironworkers Memorial Bridge and the Lions Gate Bridge safer for cycling. A greater return on these investments can be attained through the proposed





changes to taxation of e-bikes by encouraging greater usage of alternate forms of transportation. The province currently offers a before tax point of sale incentive of up to \$5000 for electric motor vehicles, which is around the price of high-end e-bikes. The province should encourage e-bike sales through a similar type of incentive for e-bikes.

We believe that providing financial incentives to purchase e-bikes can:

- Encourage more British Columbians to choose cycling as their mode of transportation
- Give the Province another tool with which to meet its climate change objectives
- Reduce health care costs by providing British Columbians with more opportunities for regular exercise
- Help reduce traffic congestion and the wear and tear on vehicle road infrastructure
- Help British Columbians save on fuel, save on maintenance, save on insurance and parking
- Strengthen the cycling industry in British Columbia

We encourage our North Shore MLAs and all members of the Legislative Assembly to engage in a robust discussion to incentivize e-bike sales and we hope that it will emerge with broad support. We believe the benefits of eliminating the PST and providing a rebate are worth the effort. We look forward to supporting our members of the Legislative Assembly in moving this forward.

Sincerely,

Tony Valente
Chair,
HUB North Shore Committee
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Martyn Schmoll
Co-Chair,
North Shore Safe Routes Advocates
northshoresra@gmail.com

Cc:

- Alexander Clarkson, President, HUB Cycling Board of Directors
- Peter Scholefield, Vice-Chair, HUB North Shore Committee
- Erin O'Melinn, Executive Director, HUB Cycling
- Terry Beech, Member of Parliament, Burnaby North-Seymour
- Pam Goldsmith-Jones, Member of Parliament, West-Vancouver-Sunshine-Coast-Sea-to-Sky-Country
- Jonathan Wilkinson, Member of Parliament, North Vancouver