

Making a safe cycling community

Delta Police Department and HUB partner to promote awareness about rules of the road

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HUB Cycling Delta Committee chair Patrick Thompson and Delta Police Const. Leisa Schaefer install a reflector on Thompson's bike. Photograph By GORD GOBLE

The Delta Police and HUB Cycling Delta are working together to ensure that cyclists, motorists and pedestrians share the road safely and cooperatively.

Both have partnered recently on a number of initiatives to promote safe cycling and the rules of the road.

Patrick Thompson, chair of the Delta HUB Committee said in recent months citizens in the community have contacted Delta Police expressing concerns about cycling choices of some riders.

"In particular, there have been citizen concerns relating to riding on sidewalks, in groups on the road, as well as travelling without lights in the dark," said Thompson. "Delta Police then contacted us and we have been working together to come up with ways to educate and inform the public."

To raise awareness about the rules, the Delta Community Police recently organized bike safety blitzes in Tsawwassen.

"We conducted a threeday blitz in Tsawwassen in late September and early October at different times and locations with our partner ICBC. We focused on identifying and engaging the community and emphasized safety and the rules of the road. It was a great success," said Const. Leisa Schaefer of the Tsawwassen Community Police Station. "Our focus is around safety and making sure everyone is safe whether they are cyclists or pedestrians. There are rules and regulations that need to be followed. There are responsibilities that come with riding a bicycle. It's just not riding a bicycle. There are rules governing how we do that safely."

Delta HUB is a volunteer organization that has been active in Delta for the past two years. The Delta committee is part of the larger Cycling Vancouver HUB group, which has 10 local branches in communities throughout the Lower Mainland.

"Our focus as a committee here in Delta is on cycling safety, which falls into two areas - safe cycling practices - and safe cycling infrastructure, how people get around," added Thompson.

Thompson said as well as working with Delta Police on specific initiatives, Delta HUB has also been involved in initiatives to inform youth and local agricultural workers about safer cycling practises, through Learn2Ride courses at schools and the creation of a Spanish-language poster.

"We helped coordinate two safe cycling courses with a pair of elementary schools. Those were both very successful," he said.

"The idea for the Spanishlanguage poster came about through a conversation with the COPS office and the Rotary Club of Tsawwassen. It came to our attention that a lot of the agricultural workers who are here for a long time during the year might