



November 25, 2013

Mayor and Council
District of North Vancouver
355 West Queens Road
North Vancouver, BC V7N 4N5

Cycling in Edgemont Village Centre Plan

Dear Mayor and Council,

HUB is a charitable organization that encourages cycling for all ages and abilities in Metro Vancouver to improve the quality of our communities and local economies, our health and the environment. The HUB North Shore Committee is concerned about the lack of cycling facilities in the *Draft Policies and Design Guidelines for Edgemont Village*, as presented at the open houses in early November.

The 2012 *North Vancouver Bicycle Master Plan* designates several bike routes through and around Edgemont Village. The *Policies and Design Guidelines for Edgemont Village* document should include plans for cycling facilities on these routes. Building cycling facilities as part of re-development is more cost-effective and can produce much higher-quality facilities than trying to fit in bike lanes after new curbs and sidewalks have been built. By creating safe bike routes into and through our community centres, the District provides residents with more transportation options, reducing road congestion and parking demand.

No safe bike routes in Edgemont

HUB participated with a bike rodeo at the recent Edgemont Roll & Stroll Festival in October, which was organized by the Heart & Stroke Foundation in cooperation with parents from the local elementary schools, local businesses and Vancouver Coastal Health. The goal of the festival was to encourage children, youth, seniors and other community members to walk and cycle in their daily lives. A section of Edgemont Boulevard was closed to car traffic for the event, to allow children to cycle from Cleveland Elementary to the village centre. Unfortunately outside such events there are currently no safe bike routes in Edgemont Village that would allow young people, seniors and many other residents to travel by bike to school, to shops or to the library.

Children and their families told us at the Edgemont Roll & Stroll Festival that they ride their bikes to school, but on the sidewalks. They would be excited about the opportunity to have a safe alternative to this, in bike lanes!



Edgemont Village in the Bicycle Master Plan

The 2012 *North Vancouver Bicycle Master Plan* designates several bike routes in the Edgemont Village area (Figure 1): Edgemont Boulevard, Highland Boulevard, Ridgewood Drive, and West Queens Road.

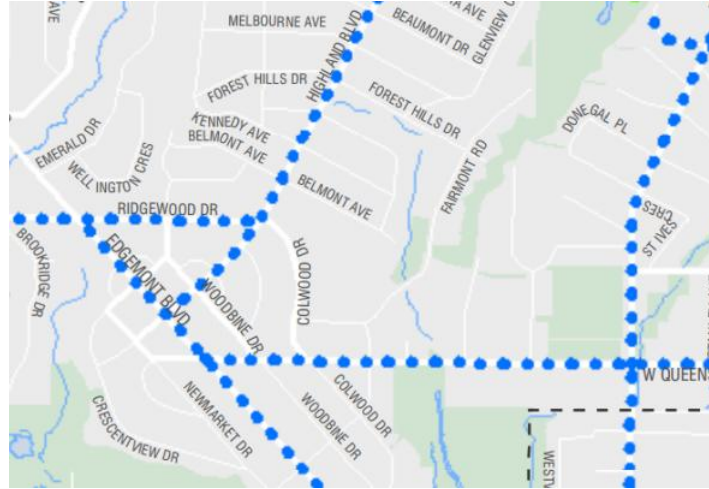


Figure 1: Future bike routes (blue) in Edgemont Village

Source: 2012 North Vancouver Bicycle Master Plan, Appendix 4, Map A

Cycling in the *Draft Policies and Design Guidelines for Edgemont Village*

The *Draft Policies and Design Guidelines for Edgemont Village* document does not identify improvements to create the bike routes designated in the Bicycle Master Plan. The only reference to cycling is a potential opportunity for bike lanes on Highland Boulevard to provide a buffer from cars for pedestrians.

Recommendations

To meet the goals of the District's Transportation Plan in a timely and fiscally prudent way, plans for Edgemont Village should include the bike routes identified in the Bicycle Master Plan. Cycling facilities should be built and funded wherever possible by developers fronting the bike routes.

- Edgemont Boulevard and Highland Boulevard should have bike lanes that are physically separated from vehicle traffic.
- Separated bike lanes on Highland Boulevard will provide a safe route for students cycling to Highlands Elementary School.
- The angle parking on Edgemont Boulevard should be changed to parallel parking. Angle parking is very hazardous for cyclists because drivers backing out generally cannot see approaching cyclists who ride on the right side of the street immediately behind the parked cars. The space saved from converting angle to parallel parking could be used to create the separated bike lanes.



- Bike lanes should also be planned for Ridgewood Boulevard and West Queens Road, which are the main routes into Edgemont Village.

Recognizing that changing angle parking to parallel parking will likely mean a reduction in the number of on-street parking spaces on Edgemont Boulevard, the District may wish to consider requesting from the developers additional parking spaces underground.

We look forward to a response to our comments and suggestions to create safe bike routes for all ages and abilities in Edgemont Village.

Sincerely,

Antje Wahl
Chair, North Shore Committee
HUB: Your Cycling Connection
northshore@bikehub.ca

Cc: Sarah Taylor, Cleveland in Motion/Safe Routes to School
Coordinator, Cleveland Parent Advisory Council

Highlands Parent Advisory Council Executive

Jeneen Sutherland, Active Communities - Heart and Stroke
Foundation

Brian Bydwell, General Manager Planning, Properties & Permits,
District of North Vancouver

Steve Ono, Manager Engineering Services, District of North
Vancouver

Erica Geddes, Section Manager Transportation, District of North
Vancouver

Tegan Smith, Transportation Planner, District of North Vancouver