



Your Cycling Connection

bikehub.ca



October 7, 2021

To Mayor Stewart, Council, Canisius Chan, and Aaron Dixon,

Re: Need for better construction policies regarding bike route closures

During the summer, two major closures took place: Como Lake Avenue's multi-use path, and the bike lanes across the Mariner/Johnson overpass. We have been told that people using bikes on these routes were asked to share the road with vehicles. For these two corridors in particular, there is no alternative route that provides the same level of safe and comfortable infrastructure for cyclists. No closely parallel street to Como Lake Avenue has a multi-use path, and the Mariner/Johnson overpass's closest detour is over to Dewdney Trunk Road, which does not feature any cycling infrastructure. In addition, in the face of the Trans Mountain pipeline construction, United Boulevard has become scary and unusable. These recent closures are emblematic of a wider problem with civic construction policies regarding closures of bike routes. Not only have we faced these issues ourselves, but we have had numerous concerned residents email us with their experiences.

Such closures are problematic, as many that feel safe in a painted lane do not feel safe in mixed traffic. This is even more true for those who have come to expect using a multi-use path for part of their journey to separate themselves from 50 km/h traffic on an arterial road. It is unreasonable to ask those using bikes to accept such a safety downgrade if reasonable measures could be taken to avoid the bike route closure.

We would like to respectfully ask that Coquitlam examines and redesigns its construction policies with regards to the closure of bike lanes and bike infrastructure. Other municipalities including Vancouver and North Vancouver have higher quality guidelines, for example. HUB Cycling has put together a number of recommendations on [accommodating people cycling during construction](#) that may be helpful. We would like to see more emphasis on mitigation of the closures where possible, as well as provisions of separated and safe space where this cannot be accomplished, although we do understand cost and logistical constraints. We look forward to working with the City of Coquitlam to develop a policy that works for both the city and people using bikes.

Thank you for your consideration,

Andrew Hartline and Colin Fowler
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About HUB Cycling

HUB Cycling is a charitable not for profit organization that has spent over 22 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](#).

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