

March 28, 2024

**Mayor and Council  
District of North Vancouver**

**Re: Spirit Trail East**

Dear Mayor and Council,

We are very excited to see the Spirit Trail East progressing and appreciate the efforts that the District of North Vancouver (the District) is making to share information and solicit public input. HUB Cycling wholeheartedly supports the implementation of the Spirit Trail East and looks forward to further engagement on the specifics of routing and design.

The existing sections of Spirit Trail are well-used and loved by many. However, there is currently no safe bike route or walking path between Maplewood and Deep Cove. There are multiple facilities for people in vehicles to reach their eastern destinations, but walking or biking along those same routes is scary or at least very unpleasant. The bike lanes along Mount Seymour Parkway are typically a commuter route for people comfortable riding on busy thoroughfares. In contrast, the Spirit Trail is a path for connecting communities and encouraging people to walk and ride for recreation, as well as transportation. While we will continue to advocate for the direct commuter route to Deep Cove, and welcome the planned upgrades to Mount Seymour Parkway and Dollarton Highway, we appreciate the route that the District has proposed for Spirit Trail East as it presents the best opportunity to connect more neighbourhoods and destinations, including linking multiple schools to give children a safe route to walk or bike.

Multi-use paths are not simply infrastructure for recreation and transportation. Linear parks like the Spirit Trail fast become an integral part of their host neighbourhoods allowing for connections between us and with nature.

To make the route safe for pedestrians and people on bikes, we understand that the District will include measures to ensure local traffic speeds are low, reducing noise and emissions and making the streets safer for people on foot and bikes, such as children and young families. We understand that the District will employ professional detailed engineering work to address many of the concerns regarding Spirit Trail users sharing space with existing users of the street or trail.

Allowing people on wheels or on foot to get to Deep Cove from points west will also help to alleviate the congestion this neighbourhood experiences in high season. More people arriving using transportation that does not emit greenhouse gases keeps our wonderful forest air clean.

Finally, the Spirit Trail is an important part of meeting the targets set by the District in our Official Community Plan to increase transit and active transportation to 35% of all trips. With no options for comfortable travel, pedestrians and people on bikes have no equitable access to their preferred mode of transport, and car use continues to increase.

Thank you again for taking the time to engage with the public and HUB Cycling on this critical corridor. Let's not allow for any delay and implement this wonderful project as soon as possible. We look forward to continuing to work with you as a key stakeholder interested in making our roads safer for all users and more equitable, sustainable, and healthier.

Yours sincerely,

District of North Vancouver Liaisons,  
HUB Cycling, North Shore Committee  
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PS. HUB Cycling is a charitable not-for-profit organization working to get more people cycling, more often and making cycling safer and better through education, action and events. More cycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions, relieves traffic congestion and means healthier, happier and more connected communities.