



November 4, 2020

Mayor and Councillors, City of Vancouver
cc: Matt Horne, Climate Policy Manager, City of Vancouver
(By Email)

Re: Climate Emergency Action Plan – November 3 Update to Council

Dear Mayor and Councillors

HUB Cycling and our members in Vancouver urge you to support the [October 22nd 2020 staff report](#) on the Climate Emergency, including the 6 Bold Moves identified, and the actions recommended to achieve the targets you established last year when you declared a Climate Emergency, and instructed staff to develop this plan. In particular:

- 1) We need to accelerate the move to more walkable (and rollable) neighbourhoods. The Vancouver Plan is the appropriate mechanism to drive this shift, as identified in the report.
- 2) Transportation 2040 set a clear direction, and accelerating the targets already agreed to within that plan makes a lot of sense. Achieving those targets will require more detailed plans, which we look forward to engaging on as they are developed, particularly for the ones relating to improving Active Transportation.
- 3) Transport Pricing is a proven way of better accounting for how we use road space. It has benefits far beyond reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including impacts on safety, noise, air quality, congestion, and the use of public space. It can improve current inequities in our transportation system. It has worked in other jurisdictions, and we strongly support developing a Transport Pricing plan for the metro core, as outlined in the report. Transport Pricing will clearly need to consider equity, among other things, in the implementation.
- 4) A city-wide Traffic Demand Management plan is overdue. We have collectively focused on supply, while leaving aside many of the issues relating to demand. Encouraging more use of the transportation modes we want to see more take up of is a positive step forward.
- 5) Better managing vehicle parking, by eliminating off-street motor vehicle parking requirement minimums (with consideration of spaces required for accessibility); implementing parking maximums; and beginning a transition toward managing all curbside space, city-wide, is very welcome.

- 6) The support for a quicker transition to electric vehicles is welcomed, but we note that sometimes the best replacement for an internal combustion powered vehicle isn't an electric vehicle of similar size and weight, and with similar parking and road space requirements, but rather an electric assist cycle. To support that quicker shift, we need to ensure that potential incentives around EV purchase, on street charging, off street charging, rental unit charging, parking, and so on, as mentioned in the report, all consider electric assist cycles alongside larger electric vehicles.

Thank you for your leadership on this file. We also appreciate the great amount of work that staff has done on this and value the opportunity we had to engage in a discussion as the report was developed.

When you think about the identified Bold Moves, and the critical actions contemplated, we urge you to consider not just the easy comparison to the status quo, but more importantly the comparison to a trajectory of further inaction, and of deferring these issues to be dealt with by future generations. Cities need to be the leaders in taking meaningful climate action. We urge Council to advance these actions, for our City, our residents, and our future residents. Part of this plan will promote safer and more comfortable active transportation, and we look forward to being involved in those discussions, but the plan includes so much more than that. We would be pleased to meet to discuss any of the points we have raised, at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Jeff Leigh
Chair, Vancouver UBC Local Committee, HUB Cycling
Vancouver@bikehub.ca

HUB Cycling is a not-for-profit charitable organization that works to make cycling better through education, events, and collaboration. We are Metro Vancouver's leader in making cycling an attractive choice for everyone and have close to 3,000 members and more than 38,000 direct supporters. HUB Cycling has 11 volunteer committees across Metro Vancouver that encourages cycling for all ages and abilities (AAA) in municipalities across Metro Vancouver.