



November 11, 2017

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

Cc: Gavin Joyce, General Manager, Engineering, Parks & Facilities, District of North Vancouver

3900 Block of Dollarton Highway (Cates Landing)

HUB is a charitable organization working to get more people cycling, more often. We believe that more cycling means healthier, happier, more connected communities.

The waterfront development in the 3900 block on Dollarton Highway referred to as Cates Landing has created serious issues for people traveling on bicycles. Dollarton Highway is a designated bike route in the North Vancouver Bicycle Master Plan. It is one of only two routes to Deep Cove. Many residents bike on Dollarton Highway rather than Mount Seymour Parkway because of lower traffic volumes and gentler grades.

We are disappointed that the District has not taken the opportunity to provide an eastbound bike lane with the development. Rather than improve cycling safety on this designated bike route, the new on-street parking and the development's driveways have added new hazards for people cycling on Dollarton Highway.

Recommendations

We recommend the following short-term safety improvements for the 3900 block of Dollarton Highway:

1. Post signs warning drivers and cyclists of the "hidden driveways". There are two for this development.
2. Post signs and pavement markings for vehicles and bicycles to proceed in single file fashion.
3. Eliminate on-street parking in front of the development that interferes with driver vision. This applies probably to most parking.

In the longer term we recommend to remove all on-street parking on Dollarton Highway and provide bike lanes on both sides of the street. The bike lanes should be physically separated from vehicle traffic where feasible.

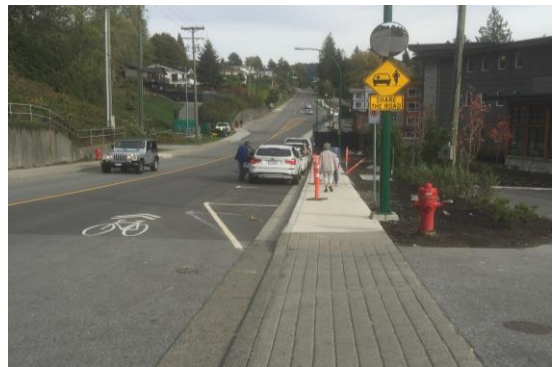


Rationale

The main accesses to the development onto Dollarton Highway are located near the bottom of a steep hill with restricted vision for drivers and cyclists due to parked vehicles. While this section of road saw major reconstruction for the residential development, instead of creating a bike lane, a decision was made by the District to create more on-street vehicle parking. The result is that vehicle drivers exiting Cates Landing may not see cyclists due to the parked cars.

Cursory observation shows that drivers, in order to see past the parked cars, will inadvertently block the path of the cyclist. This situation is extremely dangerous for cyclists who could be traveling 50 km/h on reaching the bottom of this hill. Such speeds common as cyclists desire the momentum to get up the steep hill on the other side.

A cyclist traveling 50 km/h on this section of road with a car darting out from Cates Landing will be totally unexpected for the cyclist (not to mention the vehicle drivers) and there will be limited capacity for collision avoidance. A collision at such speed is likely to result in serious injury or death of the cyclist.



We hope the District will take action before we have a fatality or injury and before residents take possession of their Cates Landing homes.

If you have any questions or comments about the above recommendations, please contact the HUB North Shore Committee at northshore@bikehub.ca.

Sincerely,

Tony Valente
Chair, HUB North Shore Committee
northshore@bikehub.ca