To: Dale Bracewell, Manager, Active Transportation

Cc: Mayor and Council; Ross Kenny, Engineering

Dear Mr Bracewell,

HUB is a charitable organization whose mission is to make cycling an attractive choice for everyone in Metro Vancouver.

A number of members of HUB have expressed concern at the redesign of the Science World plaza. With the levels of cycling and pedestrian traffic observed in April and May, it is clear that north-south cycling traffic and the predominantly east-west pedestrians have to navigate carefully in order to avoid collisions. HUB is recommending that additional bike infrastructure be added to south bound Quebec St.

The Science World area forms the connection between Vancouver's busiest cycling routes: Adanac and Ontario St's and the sea wall. In addition, traffic coming off the Central Valley Greenway (CVG) heading for downtown passes through here. The bike-pedestrian conflicts are a consequence of the success of these routes but demonstrate that alternatives bike routes should be provided to reduce the traffic in this area.

HUB is pleased that the City intends to upgrade the western section of the Adanac route. The separated facilities and closure of the block between Main and Expo will make this part of Adanac more appealing to cyclists of all abilities and ages. It is likely to even further increase the pressure on the Science World area.

We suggest that some of the issues could be alleviated by continuing the existing southbound bike lane on Pacific Blvd after it merges with Quebec St., to connect with 1st Ave. Presently, the bike lane ends at the intersection of Pacific & Quebec. Pacific Blvd has 2 southbound travel vehicle lanes which expand into 3 on Quebec St. As vehicle traffic either merges from Quebec or from Pacific Blvd but never at the same time, there is no justification for this additional road capacity.

Cyclists coming from Downtown and connecting to the CVG or from Adanac connecting to Ontario now predominantly ride through the Science World parking lot. A cycling lane on Quebec would provide an on-street alternative and provide a safer crossing for the pedestrian traffic at the light on Terminal & Quebec. With the scheduled construction of the Adanac bike route improvements, the timing is right to complete this important connection this summer.

HUB also recommends that the City study options for putting bike lanes on Main St between the CVG and the present location of the viaducts. Main St is an important destination. Again, a better connection from the CVG to the north end of downtown would help to take cyclists away from the Science World area.

We appreciate your attention and look forward to further communications on this topic.

Sincerely,

Tess Kitchen  
President, HUB