



Your Cycling Connection

bikehub.ca



4 September 2024

To Mayor West and Port Coquitlam Council,

### **Re: Recent Changes to Port Coquitlam's Master Transportation Plan**

We commend the focus on cycling in Port Coquitlam's new Master Transportation Plan. Port Coquitlam is a city with very high potential for cycling uptake, primarily because it is quite flat and has a grid layout. We hope that as the city densifies, more and more residents find that they are just a quick bike ride away from their desired destination, along facilities that are safe and comfortable for riders of all ages.

However, we were disappointed to see [in a recent Tri-City News article](#) that the City has decided to downgrade planned cycle tracks on Citadel, Confederation, Reeve, Pitt River and Shaughnessy to multi-use pathways (MUPs). MUPs can work well if very careful attention is paid to intersections, as Port Moody staff did in building Port Moody's new St. John's Street multi-use path. But too often they feature a high number of driveways on every block; conflicts between faster and slower modes of traffic (for example, between people on e-scooters and people walking with small children); dangerous bollards throughout; and little or no protection in intersections, where people cycling need protection most.

A badly executed multi-use path might be better than nothing, but we don't think it is the right way to get more people cycling more often. The stated plan in the Tri-City News article to modify these MUPs into protected bikeways "if/ when demand increases" misses the point that there is demand for safe and comfortable cycling facilities **right now**. In the absence of such facilities, people who would like to cycle to work, shops or school will feel forced to drive, and add to Port Coquitlam's increasing car congestion. Furthermore, in an environment where construction costs escalate by significant margins each year, it will be more expensive to perform this work later on than right now. In the meantime, all those trips will continue to be made by car, creating expensive strain on city infrastructure.

To this end, ***we respectfully ask Port Coquitlam to reconsider the Citadel, Confederation, Reeve, Pitt River, and Shaughnessy MUPs and accept the draft Master Transportation Plan's intent to build these routes as protected bike lanes / cycle tracks.***

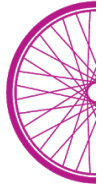
Thank you,

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**About HUB Cycling:** HUB Cycling is a charitable not for profit organization that has spent over 25 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. Learn more at [bikehub.ca](http://bikehub.ca).