

April 12, 2016

Raymond Fung,
Director of Engineering & Environment Services
District of West Vancouver
750 17th Street
West Vancouver, BC V7V 3T3

Safety Concerns for Cyclists On Keith Road

Dear Mr Fung,

HUB is a charitable organization working to get more people cycling for transportation, more often. Safe and accessible infrastructure plays an important role in getting more people on bikes.

The HUB North Shore Committee is concerned for the safety of cyclists traveling on the newly paved, one-way east section of Keith Road between 13th and 11th Streets. Our principal concern is the section between 11th Street and 12th Street where the slip lane joins Keith Road. This is shown in the photo below (looking to the east):



@wearehub
@wearehub
info@bikehub.ca
bikehub.ca

1-828 West 8th Ave.
Vancouver, BC
V5Z 1E3 Canada
604.558.2002

Additional safety concerns are as follows:

- The 4.2 m space between parked cars is not safe for one-way automobile traffic and two-way bicycle traffic. The Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) guidelines call for a 4.3 m wide lane for shared bicycle/automobile traffic traveling in the same direction.
- The safety issue is further compounded by:
 - seven parking pads with cars parked perpendicular to the road on the north side of the road, creating a risk of a collision with a cyclist when vehicles are backing out of the parking spots.
 - Currently, there is no signage or road marking to advise eastbound motorists that they may encounter westbound cyclists.
 - There is not a straight line of sight for westbound cyclists and eastbound motorists to see each other due to a curve in the road between the slip lane and 11th Street.

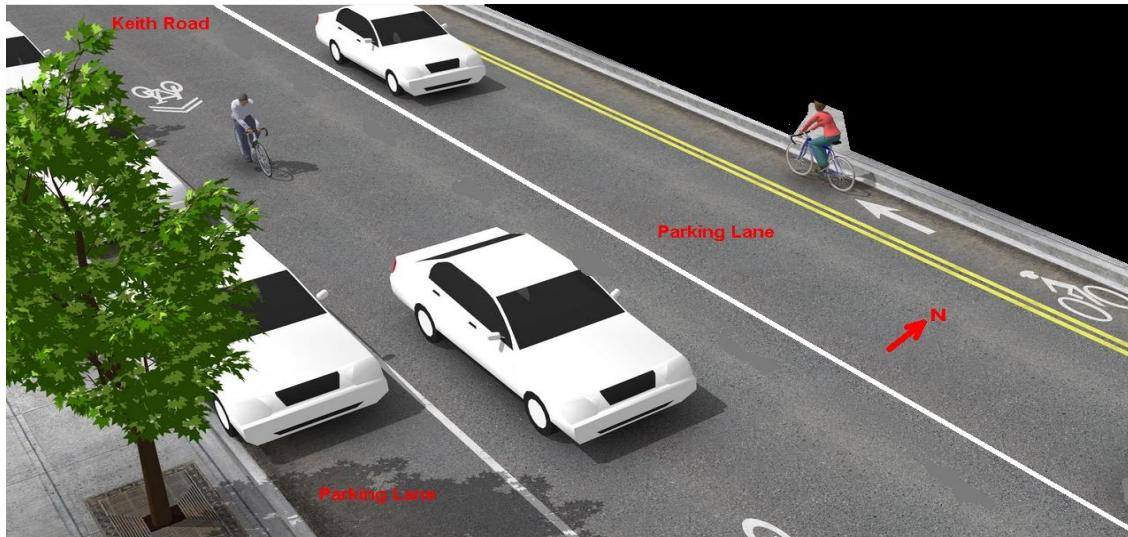
We believe the concrete island protecting the bike lane for westbound cyclists entering the 1100 block of Keith Road from 11th Street as shown in the following photo looking west from 11th Street is a safety improvement:





However, beyond that short section of protected lane, westbound cyclists are forced to ride between parked cars on either side of the road and face oncoming bicycle and automobile traffic and cars exiting their parking spaces. Due to the slight down-slope, cyclists could be moving at fast speed through this section.

A possible solution to improve safety in this area would be to extend the short section of protected lane from 11th Street all the way west to the slip lane at 12th Street. This would require widening the pavement on the north side so that the protected bike lane would be on the curb side of the parked cars. This has been done in North Vancouver on 13th Street between St Georges and St Andrews Avenues. An example is shown in the drawing below:



Installing a concrete curb on the north side would help prevent loose gravel from collecting on the paved surface, which can also be a safety hazard for cyclists. Aesthetically, installing a curb on the north side would give this side of the road the same professionally finished look as the south side. For safety reasons and to encourage more people to cycle for transportation, the HUB North Shore Committee has been promoting and encouraging the creation of All Ages and Abilities (AAA) bike lanes across the North Shore. This proposed solution would be a AAA bike lane.

HUB North Shore appreciates the share-the-road sign between 13th and 12th Streets, the traffic calming measures of the curb bump-outs, and the 30 km/hr speed limit on the two-block section on Keith Road between 13th and 11th Streets. In the future HUB would like to encourage the construction of bicycle pass-throughs in the curb bump-outs, so that cyclists could avoid having to ride through the 3.3 and 3.2 m gaps between the curb bump-outs and auto traffic. This could have looked like the following modified photo with pass-throughs added:



Some additional suggestions to improve safety and encourage more cycling for transportation are as follows:

- Sharrows painted on the roadway (preferably enclosed in a green-painted square) and green paint in the bicycle/pedestrian crossing at the slip lane would further help motorists to be on the look-out for cyclists.
- Another share-the-road sign just east of 12th Street would be helpful.
- The Keith Road bike route is a convenient and potentially safe route for cyclists traveling between Ambleside and North Vancouver via the Highway 1 bridge over the Capilano River. Therefore some “Keith Road Bike Route” signs all along Keith Road and wayfinding signage would help attract more cyclists to this route. Here is an example of a Decision Sign that could be located on Keith Road at 13th Street following the format of the TransLink Wayfinding Guidelines (2013):





Looking forward to working with you on these improvements.

Sincerely,

Peter Scholefield
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