

June 2, 2024

Re: Sapperton Crossing Train Whistle Cessation & Health

From HUB New Westminster Local Committee

Dear Representatives of Transport Canada and Canadian National Railway

The HUB Cycling New Westminster Local Committee would like to offer its enthusiastic support of the City of New Westminster's request to cease loud train whistles at the Sapperton Crossing as part of an initiative to support the health and well-being of New Westminster residents.

HUB has actively supported New Westminster's Active Transportation Network Plan: A five year plan to promote an active transportation network that will support climate action, public health, equity, safety and economy.

Our local committee recognizes the efforts undertaken by city staff and design contractors over the last several years to develop a complete and connected cycling network plan. However, an ongoing challenge for active transportation users is exposure to loud noise. A variety of studies have found that noise exposure can negatively impact physical and mental health, as well as damage hearing. For example: [commuter study](#), noise [pollution and cyclists study](#). Although we are excited about network improvements, we are deeply concerned about the long lasting impacts of loud noise on people who do not use cars. Freight train whistles reach up to 95 decibels. Sounds above 85 decibels can damage hearing. Many other studies, including one by the [World Health Organization](#), point to ongoing noise pollution at even lower decibels significantly impacting health. Active transportation users are especially vulnerable, as they are often unable to use hearing protection in order to be aware of their surroundings to ride safely.

By improving inclusive active transportation infrastructure, we know that we'll see far reaching benefits like further reductions in noise and pollution, improved sense of connection to community, and better physical and mental health outcomes for folks living in and passing through New Westminster.

Thank you for reading and considering our significant concerns. We look forward to seeing safer, better spaces for walking and rolling in the near future.

HUB Cycling New Westminster Local Committee  
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## About HUB Cycling

HUB Cycling is a charitable non-profit organization that has spent over 20 years removing barriers to cycling in Metro Vancouver while cultivating active transportation's health, environmental, and economic benefits. HUB has educated thousands of people, motivated thousands more, and championed improvements such as [#UnGapTheMap](#) to create a connected cycling network.

HUB Cycling's mission is to get more people cycling more often. We make cycling better through education, action and events. More cycling means healthier, happier, more connected communities. We're leading the way in making cycling an attractive choice for everyone.

HUB Cycling has close to 3,000 members and more than 65,000 direct supporters. HUB Cycling has ten volunteer [committees across Metro Vancouver](#) that encourage cycling for all ages and abilities (AAA) in Metro Vancouver.

HUB Cycling was established in 1998 (originally named the Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition) to improve cycling conditions in Metro Vancouver.