

April 12, 2017

Via email: Northshore@bikehub.ca

Peter Scholefield

Vice-Chair

HUB North Shore

Dear Mr Scholefield,

Thank you for taking the time to present information about HUB North Shore at the January meeting of the City Seniors Action Table (SAT).

We learned a great deal about HUB’s effective promotion of the benefits of cycling on the North Shore. As well, we learned about HUB’s work with municipal and provincial governments, and with the community, in educating and advocating for cyclists’ safety on our roads.

As advocates for seniors, the Seniors Action Tables works to improve the quality of life for seniors on the North Shore. Each SAT works on issues relating to the needs of the seniors’ population in their areas. One area of focus for the City SAT is to improve public safety and road etiquette for all modes of transportation, particularly for pedestrians, and particularly for seniors. It was gratifying to learn how much HUB and the City SAT have in common.

Education for children and for adults about cycling etiquette is a priority from the perspective of City SAT members. We recognize that cycling etiquette is only as effective as the people that practise it. We appreciate that HUB’s outreach and education programs for cyclists of all ages has improved the safety of cyclists, pedestrians and motorists on the North Shore.

Here is an example of a situation that illustrates the value of educating families about cycling etiquette.

After our meeting, one of our members shared a personal experience that took place on Seaview Trail in West Vancouver. While they were walking with a frail, elderly relative who used a walker, three very young children on tricycles suddenly appeared on the

Peter Scholefield, HUB 2

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path, well ahead of their grandparents following on foot. The children were focused on pedalling as quickly as possible and took up the width of the path. The grandparents were focused on the children. On the return journey, pedestrians and tricyclists met again. Again, the children were focused on their race and the grandparents on the children. On both instances, children and grandparents appeared unaware of the risk to pedestrians.

Here is a summary of the North Vancouver City SAT’s concerns and suggestions for your consideration:

* include cycle shops in HUB’s information sharing program.
* expand HUB’s cycling education programs in the North Shore school system.
* advise and encourage cyclists to use North Vancouver’s roadways, not its sidewalks.
* support the use of warning bells on bicycles.
* large groups of cyclists traveling at high speeds along the roadways most weekends are of concern to pedestrians and motorists sharing those roadways.
* groups of cyclists that ignore stop signs and ride two and three abreast on the roadways are of concern to pedestrians and motorists sharing those roadways.

Lionsview Seniors Planning Society will host a public meeting about pedestrians, transportation and public safety at North Vancouver City Library. All North Shore SATs will attend, as well as participants at the library’s monthly seniors’ meeting. We hope you will join us.

Information about this meeting will be circulated soon. In the meantime, thank you again for your informative talk, and for listening to the concerns and suggestions of North Vancouver’s City SAT pedestrians.

Yours truly,

Margaret Coates

Coordinator

Lionsview Seniors’ Planning Society

cc: Margarete Wiedmann, North Vancouver City Library