

October 25, 2024

To: Mayor and Council mayorcouncilandcaol@mapleridge.ca
Cc: Engage@mapleridge.ca
Trevor Thompson, Director of Finance tthompson@mapleridge.ca

Re: Budget Requests 2025

The Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Committee of HUB Cycling requests the following for the 2025 Budget and the next 5-Year Financial Plan:

1) Active Transportation Coordinator

We urge you to create a new position within the Engineering Department: an Active Transportation Coordinator. In Metro Vancouver, the cities of Vancouver and Richmond have active transportation dedicated staff.

Planning for and accommodating cycling for people of All Ages and Abilities only started happening in Maple Ridge in fairly recent years. Fitting in active transportation on existing roadways is becoming even more challenging due to emerging new micro-mobility, such as e-bikes and e-scooters. Active transportation design guidelines continue to evolve rapidly. Therefore, we feel it would be prudent to hire a dedicated Active Transportation Coordinator with expert knowledge and experience in this rapidly evolving field. This person will be able to dedicate their full attention to not only the coordination and design of active transportation facilities, but also to address the many concerns brought forward by citizens and active transportation advocates when it comes to the safety of vulnerable road users throughout the city.

By designing and implementing safer, more accessible routes, the Coordinator will help reduce conflicts between people driving vehicles and those using non-motorized modes of transport. It will also foster smoother interactions between all road users, resulting in more harmonious, safe and efficient streets that serve everyone. The Coordinator can ensure that infrastructure improvements are equitable and encourage sustainable transportation options, benefiting the entire community.

2) Funding to complete planned cycling improvements as per Council's Strategic Plan

We encourage you to continue to work diligently towards implementation of your strategic goals and objectives for the remainder of your term. The Key Results as identified by Mayor and Council in your 2023-2026 Strategic Plan under the Goal "Improve mobility with safe, sustainable and effective transportation options", are:

- Include a complete east-to-west AAA bike route from 240th to Maple Meadows station in the 5-year Capital Plan.

- Install 30 secure bike and micro-mobility lockers within the civic centre area.
- Increase cycling network length by three kilometers.

From what we understand, the purchase and installation of a locking system for bikes (Bikeep) for the Town Centre is presently in progress. The other two Key Results will require additional funding in next year's (2025-2029) Financial Plan in order to achieve timely completion. We encourage you to demonstrate your commitment to your Strategic Plan by ensuring funding is put in place.

3) Additional bike parking in the Town Centre

In addition to funding the goals identified in the Strategic Plan, we recommend installing at least a minimum of 3 bike locking loops per block within the Town Centre, depending on the area's density, foot traffic, and demand for bike parking. In higher-density urban areas or near commercial spaces, more loops may be needed, while in residential or quieter areas, fewer may suffice. Having sufficient and conveniently located bike parking encourages cyclists by providing them with secure, accessible spots to lock their bikes, making cycling a more practical and attractive option for daily transportation.

Yours sincerely,

Jackie Chow,
on behalf of the Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Committee
HUB Cycling
mapleridge-pittmeadows@bikehub.ca

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 over 3,000 members and more than 50,000 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. For more information, visit bikehub.ca.