



July 15, 2016

District of West Vancouver
750 17th St,
West Vancouver, BC V7V 3T3

RE: Request for Bike Lanes When Resurfacing Roads on Bike Routes

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

In our continuing effort to encourage more people to take up cycling and improve the safety of all road users, HUB looks for opportunities to suggest improved cycling infrastructure on roads, especially those that are part of designated cycling networks. In noting the capital projects timetable (<http://westvancouver.ca/government/capital-projects/capital-projects-timetable>) we see two such opportunities in the District.

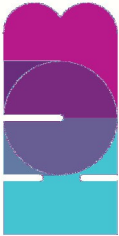
Road resurfacing - 15th St (Mathers Ave to Queens Ave)

15th Street from Mathers Avenue to Queens Avenue is a very important component of the West Vancouver Cycling Network as it provides access for cyclists to and from the marked bike routes on the paved shoulders of the Upper Levels Highway. As you know, there is very heavy automobile traffic on 15th Street. This poses a safety risk for cyclists and motorists, especially in the uphill lane on the east side of 15th Street, where motorists are easily tempted to, and often do, pass the much slower moving cyclists. There is not the same degree of risk in the downhill lane because cyclists can ride fast enough that motorists are not so easily tempted to pass them.

Noting that there are very few cars that park on the east side of 15th Street between Mathers and Queens Avenues, we suggest that no parking should be permitted on this side of 15th Street which would allow for a bike lane. Ideally, we would like to see the bike lane physically separated from automobile traffic and, if this is not possible, then a painted marked bike lane would be an improvement. Adding a painted buffer and/or armadillos would make the painted bike lane even safer (see: <http://www.treehugger.com/bikes/how-create-bike-lane-seconds.html>).

Road resurfacing - 21st Street (Queens to Westhill) and Skilift Road (Westhill to Folkestone)

Similar rationale to that applied to 15th Street from Mathers Avenue to Queens Avenue can also be applied to 21st Street from Queens Avenue to Skilift Road. As is the case at 15th Street, cyclists use this section of 21st Street for access to and from the Upper Levels Highway. The safety risk for cyclists and motorists, especially in the uphill lane on the east side of 21st Street is similar to that on 15th Street. For this reason, a bike lane, preferably separated from traffic, is suggested for the east side of 21st Street from Queens Avenue to Skilift Road. Noting the plan



to also resurface Skilift Road between Westhill and Folkstone Way, it is suggested to at least install a bike lane on the north side of Skilift Road, which would provide cyclists with continuous bike lane protection on the same side of the road from 21st Street and Queens Avenue to Folkstone Way.

In support of these two suggested improvements, we would like to refer you to the District of West Vancouver Cycling Network Implementation Plan which was approved by Council in June of 2012. Here is an excerpt from Page 18 of the Plan in which all three sections of the Cycling Network that are to be resurfaced are specifically mentioned as future projects under phase 3 of the Plan:

Table 6: Phase 3 Projects

Street Name	From	To	Status	Description
15 th Street	Mathers	Highway 1	New - needs approval	Needs further review, internal design, some consultation
Marine Drive	25 th Street	31 st Street	On bike map	Needs further review, internal design, some consultation
Eyremount / Crosscreek	Kenwood	Highway 1	On bike map	Needs further review, internal design, some consultation
Highland Drive	Taylor Way	Cross Creek	New - needs approval	Needs further review, internal design, some consultation
Westcot School	Taylor Way	Mathers	On bike map	Needs further review, internal design, some consultation
21 st Street	Queens	Skilift	On bike map	Needs review with MoT, tie in with new signal at 21 st and Queens, tie in with new development on Skilift
Skilift	21 st Street	Chairlift	New - needs approval	Tie in with new development on Skilift

Finally, in addition to these suggestions for the two planned resurfacing projects, we would like to ask if there are any plans to make improvements for cyclists on the recently resurfaced section of the Cycling Network on Kings Avenue between 13th and 14th Streets?

For your reference we have included an excerpt from the Cycling Network Maps highlighting the locations of the resurfacing projects discussed above.

We look forward to your response to our suggestions to improve the safety of cyclists on West Vancouver's Cycling Network and would appreciate an opportunity to consult with your staff on any future planned work on the network.

Sincerely,

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Excerpt from Cycling Network Map:

