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To: Dan Ruimy <druimy@mapleridge.ca>
Cc: Jackie Chow <jchow23708@yahoo.ca>; Sigrun Gilmour <sigrunkg@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 at 06:36:07 p.m. PST
Subject: Re: Invitation to meet with HUB cycling

Hi Mayor Ruimy:

First we would like to thank council for funding the new cycling infrastructure that was completed in the past year. We also recognize that you have fought hard to have the BRT come to MR and we are very pleased that we will be one of the first cities in Metro Vancouver that will have this service. Congratulations on that achievement.

We understand through speaking with staff, that there are more capital projects planned which excites us, however we also understand that most of the money to complete cycling/AT projects comes from grants from outside partners. We **implore** you to increase the budget for cycling and AT projects. We really need to build AAA cycling infrastructure so that we can ensure people will have a way to choose multi-modal transportation that will result in less cars and more AT to get to transit/BRT routes. Grant money alone does not usually provide enough resource to build the type of infrastructure that will make people feel safe enough to travel using Active Transportation.

We would like to share with you, our 2 priority projects that we feel would make a difference in MR so that more people will get out of their cars and onto their bicycles or other form of AT:

1) a complete AAA cycle route from 224th to Burnett through the town core

- currently we have no AAA or safe way to move through the town centre on a bicycle; this results in no one bringing their bicycles into the city to do their business. Our committee feels we need to start building infrastructure in the town core so that people feel safe to cycle in the city.

- the **2023-2026 Council Strategic Plan** provides the framework for the 2024 budget: the first 3 priorities that you and your council have identified are 1) a Liveable Community, 2) Climate Leadership and Environmental Stewardship, and 3) an Engaged, Healthy Community. Cycling fits into all 3 of these priorities and so it is important to build safe AAA infrastructure in an accelerated manner so that these priorities can be achieved.

2) create a AAA cycling route on the 113B Ave/203rd St corridor from the Golden Ears Way exit 113B Ave roundabouts to Dewdney Trunk Rd.

-this is an important corridor and is currently equipped with an unsafe cycling lane on each side of 113B from the roundabouts at the exit from the Golden Ears Bridge to Hammond Road; cyclists are squeezed in this busy industrial area, between parked cars and high volume vehicular traffic including large cargo carrying trucks.

-from Hammond Rd, north on 203rd to Lougheed Hwy, there is a cycling lane on each side of the road, but again cyclists are squeezed between parked cars and high volumes of cars and trucks.

-continuing north on 203rd, there is no cycling infrastructure from the Lougheed Highway to Dewdney.

-If this corridor was completed to create a safe AAA cycling route, it would allow cyclists to access Westgate Mall from the south, and the Maple Meadows WCE and bus station via the new MUP along Hammond Rd. It would also then provide connected AAA bicycle infrastructure to the 203rd separated bike lanes north of Dewdney and give safe cycling access to the Golden Ears Bridge and Meadowtown Shopping Centre in PM. It would also encourage people in PM to come to these places in Maple Ridge to do their business since there are a lot of services available in the industrial area and in and around Westgate Mall. Pitt Meadows also attracts a lot of cyclists from other communities and having this corridor completed would encourage these cyclists to venture into MR. This could be beneficial to the MR economy which council has identified as the 4th priority in the **2023-2026 Council Strategic Plan**: Diversified, Thriving Economy including maximizing tourism opportunities; cycle tourism provides huge economic boosts to cities who focus on it.

In the recent Budget Survey that residents were asked to comment on, it states under Active Transportation that the plan includes adding "three km to the length of Maple Ridge's cycling Network" and also states that the plan includes adding "key projects to the 5 year Capital Program to complete an east west AAA bike route from 240th St to the Maple Meadows WC Express Station." Our 2 priorities together equal 3 km of new safer cycling routes and both priorities fall within the scope of what is being planned as stated on the survey.

We hope you will consider these two priorities we have identified as you plan the 2024 budget. To repeat, in conclusion, the council priorities that have been identified align very well with those we are asking for.

Thank you in advance for considering the above.

MR/PM HUB Committee