



604.558.2002
bikehub.ca



February 4, 2019

Mayor and Councilors, City of North Vancouver

Karyn Magnussen, Deputy, Engineering, Parks and Environment
Jennifer Draper, Manager Transportation

Dear Mayor and Councilors and Staff:

Re: Translink's North Shore B-Line Proposal and Cycling

HUB Cycling is a charitable organization working to get more people cycling, more often and making cycling safer and better through education, action and events. More cycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions, relieves traffic congestion and means healthier, happier and more connected communities.

HUB North Shore is very supportive of TransLink's plan for a North Shore B-Line service and the many benefits that would accrue, including improved transportation for all ages and abilities and a reduction in traffic congestion along this key corridor. Improving cycling infrastructure along and adjacent to the planned B-Line route will complement the B-Line's goal to reduce traffic congestion.

The B-Line Route is a Top Priority for HUB North Shore

HUB North Shore considers this corridor to be *the top priority* for increasing cycling on the North Shore. Most of the B-Line route is a designated bike route in the current North Vancouver Bicycle Master Plan (2012). This route is also included in the TransLink Regional Transportation Advisory Committee's Interim Major Bike Network. Unfortunately, most of this route is currently unprotected --- marked with bike sharrows or painted bike lanes. The good news is that improvements to Major Bike Network routes are now eligible for 75% funding from TransLink, helping to reduce costs for municipalities interested in building safe routes for people cycling.

New Separated Facilities Appreciated

We thank the City of North Vancouver for hosting a meeting with TransLink and the District of North Vancouver to explain North Shore B-Line plans to representatives of HUB North Shore. We were encouraged to see that planners have given thought to the facilities for people cycling. For example, the proposed new separated

HUB Cycling, 312 Main Street (2nd Floor), Vancouver BC, V6A 2T2

facility eastbound along Third Street from Queensbury to Heywood is appreciated as is the proposed protected section from Gladstone to Brooksbank.

Cycling in B-Line Priority Lanes

Cycling in B-Line priority bus lanes will likely be an improvement for some cyclists, primarily those riders who already use existing unprotected facilities. However, permitting cycling in B-Line lanes is unlikely to encourage more people to cycle for transportation among those who are interested in cycling but concerned about their safety.

Recommendations where Lanes Remain Unprotected

Of particular concern for us are sections of cycling facilities along the B-Line route where people cycling are exposed to parked cars and are constrained to ride along the “door zone” without adequate buffers. Where protected and buffered bike lanes cannot be accommodated in B-Line plans along Marine Drive, Esplanade and Main, we recommend providing dedicated, safe cycling infrastructure in areas paralleling the B-Line route.

The B-Line project is an unprecedented leap forward for reducing traffic congestion on the North Shore. HUB North Shore is very supportive of this improvement. As active transportation advocates, HUB North Shore applauds the efforts of Translink, the City and the Provincial Government to help get the North Shore moving again by encouraging more transportation choices including cycling.

Yours sincerely,

Don Piercy,
Chair, HUB North Shore Committee,
northshore@bikehub.ca

Heather Drugge, Erika Rathje
City of North Vancouver Liaisons

cc/ Bowinn Ma, MLA, North Vancouver-Lonsdale