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Mayor and Council
District of North Vancouver
council@dnv.org

Re: District of North Vancouver Physical Spacing Measures to Support Walking and Cycling

May 26, 2020

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.

Over the past six weeks, the effects of COVID-19 related temporary school, workplace, and recreation centre closures have led to a substantial increase in demand for walking, jogging, and cycling outdoor activities. In response, communities around the world, including several in Metro Vancouver, have worked to temporarily reallocate underutilized road space for safe physical distancing.

To date, measures in the District have been limited to resident only parking restrictions near trailheads. HUB believes more temporary measures are needed to protect vulnerable road users, many of whom are new or novice and lack the skills and comfort level to share the road with fast moving motor vehicle traffic. The temporary measures could include delineation of a physical distancing space in the shoulder of a road, as well as selective local traffic only street closures, leading to or adjacent to essential services and open greenspace. One example of this nearby is Grand Boulevard which was adapted on April 16th and then extended on May 1st.

HUB requests that staff be directed to identify opportunities for tactical spacing measures on District roadways. Given current gathering restrictions, extensive public consultation would not be practical at this time. Staff can be encouraged by the Mayor and Council to move quickly in this important area.

Our community is facing a unique generational challenge that requires urgent action. If we are able to respond to this challenge with creative measures that support people's immediate health and safety needs, we will be able to lay the groundwork for a healthier, happier, post-pandemic future.

Yours sincerely,

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