

June 13, 2023

To: Mayor and Council

Re: HUB Cycling Recommendations for Multi-Use Paths

Mayor and Council,

There has been much debate over the past number of years between our HUB Committee, the Engineering Department and Council members about the increased construction of multi-use paths in our community. As you may know, the previous Council decided to no longer build any more bike lanes, and only focus on multi-use paths. This has been and still is very concerning to us.

As our Council, you will be discussing and voting on the new Strategic Transportation Plan in the next few weeks. We urge you to think about how critical it is to plan for significant change in our transportation system. This is especially important because of the rapid densification in our Town Centre and along the Lougheed Transit Corridor. We also need to prepare to accommodate the dramatic changes we will need to see in the coming decades in the ways we will get around our city.

According to CleanBC¹, targets for everyday personal transportation in BC include:

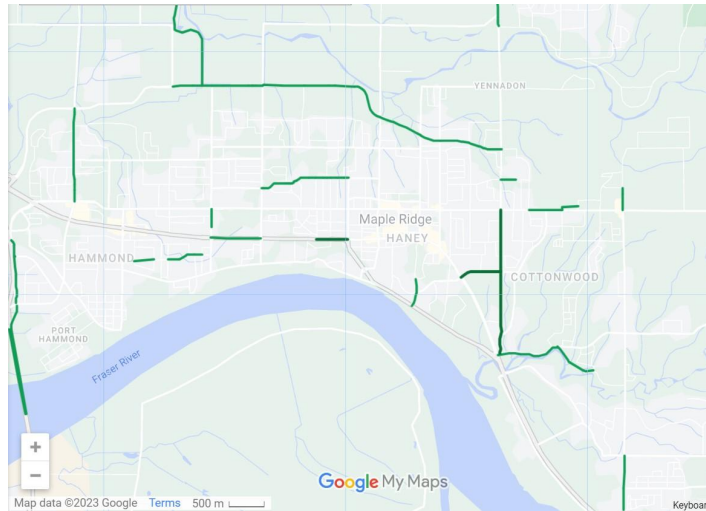
- Reduce distances travelled by automobiles in 2030 by 25% (relative to 2020)
- Increase the share of trips (mode shift) of walking, cycling and transit to 30% by 2030, 40% by 2040 and 50% by 2050.

It's very encouraging that we now have the BC Active Transportation Design Guide, which helps us plan for better quality networks for active transportation. It's really exciting that the BC Government now provides a [subsidy for e-bikes](#). Due to huge interest, their website crashed on June 1, the very first day that people could apply for it! The rebate is now oversubscribed, and people are being waitlisted. At Pitt Meadows Day on June 3, the secure bike parking area had to be expanded significantly to accommodate the extraordinary number of bikes. And about half of them were e-bikes! Change is in the air...build it and they will come!

It's essential to build high quality, safe infrastructure that truly works for the entire spectrum of 'All Ages and Abilities', from young kids biking with their parents, and an 80-year old pedaling around the block for some exercise, to everyday commuters on faster e-bikes. In our increasingly urbanized environment, in many cases separation from pedestrians is critical to ensure safety of all users. We already have an extensive road network for people in motor vehicles - they can use every single road in our community, in both directions, without any gaps or other impediments. We're now talking about spending hundreds of millions of dollars to further expand the network to improve traffic flow, create 'redundancy' so that there's always an alternative route for motor vehicles, and make driving even more convenient and pleasant, while our AAA cycling network is still full of gaps:

¹ Clean BC Road Map to 2030:

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/climate-change/action/cleanbc/cleanbc_roadmap_2030.pdf



AAA cycling network in Maple Ridge

We understand it's very tempting to 'kill two birds with one stone' with multi-use facilities on one side of many streets that don't have sidewalks yet, to accommodate both pedestrians and people cycling. We urge great caution however. Safety, comfort and convenience for all vulnerable road users - most of all pedestrians - should be prioritized over the speeds, convenience and comfort of people driving. People cycling are moving significantly faster than people walking, and as more people take active modes -something we all want for climate, health, affordability and social connectivity benefits- conflicts and collisions will increase if they are required to share the same path in high use areas, particularly with the quick growth of e-bikes that can go up to 32 km/h.

We hope that [HUB Cycling's Multi-Use Path \(MUP\) recommendation paper](#)² will provide both elected officials and engineering staff better understanding as to where MUPs make sense, and where they should be avoided.

With best regards,

Jackie Chow
HUB Cycling
Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Committee

JC/KG/SG/EoM/JL/NC

About HUB Cycling

HUB Cycling is a charitable not for profit organization that has spent 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 close to 3,000 members and more than 45,000 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.

² HUB Cycling Multi-Use Path (MUP) recommendation paper - Shared multi-use pathways should be chosen cautiously and built to the highest standards - <https://bikehub.ca/get-involved/our-positions/hub-cycling-recommendations-for-multi-use-paths>