

From: Lisa Slakov

Sent: September 23, 2020 9:50 AM

To: Park Board Commissioners (via email)

Cc: 'Park Board GM's Office', Park Board Staff, CoV Engineering

Subject: Stanley Park Road Configuration: We're in a Pandemic and a Climate Emergency

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of HUB Cycling, I would like to express our appreciation for the innovative and forward-thinking approach of Park Board staff when they reallocated road space in Stanley Park for cycling in April because of the pandemic. They have done a diligent job since then attempting to meet the needs of all park users with the reallocation.

We are, however, disappointed that Park Board now plans to remove the single roadway bike lane on Saturday and don't understand why this is happening. **Is there data that indicates this is a necessary change?** If there is, please let us know so that we can share with our members, who are asking for it.

Yes, numbers of people using bikes on the roadway is diminishing as weather worsens but so is motor vehicle traffic, allowing space for the more equitable use of roadway lanes by different users. We are still in the middle of a pandemic, with many predicting a second wave this fall: **we still need room to recreate and be in nature safely distanced.**

We are very **grateful that people on bikes will be able to return to the seawall**; we've heard from endless less able cyclists who are unable to cycle the hills in the park and need the flat routing of the seawall. The thousands of people cycling the roadway each day in the park since April are able to bike that more challenging route and have greatly expanded the numbers of people cycling in the park as more safe space was opened up than the seawall alone offers.

We believe that it is critical to get **"bad weather" data** for movement through the park on reallocated road space- both motor vehicles and bikes – to allow for the necessary data to feed into the proposal for permanent road reallocation that staff will be working on this winter.

Aside from the urgent need for distancing and active recreation during the pandemic, we are in a climate emergency and this excellent step to lessen motor vehicle emissions in Stanley Park by reallocating a lane for people on bikes feeds directly into our **City's Climate Emergency Response**. And gives Stanley Park a chance to expand its lungs with fresh air.

We urge you to keep the current road configuration through the winter.

Regards,

Lisa Slakov

HUB Cycling Park Board Liaison