

November 29, 2023

Vancouver Park Board Chair and Commissioners
City of Vancouver

Re: Stanley Park Temporary Bike Lane Reinstatement

Dear Park Board Commissioners,

We are writing to express our deep concern about the information released in the Stanley Park Bike Lane & Mobility Study Update presented to Commissioners on November 27th, 2023. We call on the Park Board to reinstate the temporary protected bike lane as soon as possible. The safety issues noted in this update and the Park Board's previous commitment to a quick return of a bike lane support this call.

At the meeting on November 27th, Park Board staff reported several alarming issues that arose after the removal of the temporary bike lane. This included dangerous motor vehicle speeds on Park Drive; an ongoing decline in people on bikes in the park; and a minimum of a two year delay on installing a permanent bike lane, which was originally promised to be in place in 2022, and then by summer 2024.

Park Board staff noted that vehicle speeds within the park became dangerously high after the protected bike lane was removed, with over half of drivers now traveling more than 20 km/h over the 30 km/h speed limit. This poses a significant threat to the safety of vulnerable road users including people on bicycles, and it is imperative that measures are taken to address this issue promptly. Speed continues to be a leading cause of death on B.C. roads.¹ A person walking when hit by a person driving at 30km an hour has a 90% chance of surviving, while at 50km an hour has an 80% chance of being killed.*

The report indicated an ongoing decline in cycling within the park since 2020 when there were very few cars in the park. Staff also noted a recent increase in cycling on the seawall, attributed in part to the removal of the lane. We know that the seawall is already unsafe due to it being over-capacity at busy times. As an organization committed to promoting cycling as a sustainable and healthy mode of transportation, we are deeply troubled by any factors that discourage cycling in our city. The Park Board, as part of the City of Vancouver, should

¹ [Provincial Government of British Columbia](#)

recognize that a decline in people cycling is contrary to the goals of multiple City plans, including the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Furthermore, we learned that the removal of the bike lane had no impact on parking revenues, suggesting that the removal decision did not yield any significant financial benefits. Research shows that investment in safe cycling infrastructure presents one of the highest returns on investment for all modes of transportation².

We understand the challenges posed by the timeline and the need for a safe permanent solution. However, the revelation that it will take more than two years to implement such a solution is distressing. We urge the Park Board to explore expedited solutions and allocate the necessary resources to reinstate the temporary bike lane as an immediate interim measure.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We look forward to your prompt response and the reinstatement of the Stanley Park temporary protected bike lane by Spring 2024.

Sincerely,

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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 Institute for Transportation and Development Policy: How Cycling Powers People and Economies