

## **Copy of email set to Park Board Commissioners January 18 2021**

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Vancouver UBC Local Committee of HUB Cycling, I would like to wish you a happy 2021 filled with positive movement for our precious parks and recreation. We would also like to express our appreciation for the extra work you're doing to help keep Vancouverites healthy during the pandemic.

As we continue to manage the pandemic, take urgent action to battle climate change and move forward with VanPlay in the final year before the election year, we believe that 2021 is a key year to take action.

With respect to City parks, we are focused on two critical projects that we believe need to happen this year:

### **1. Kitsilano Beach area Seaside Greenway path**

- a. This project has been ready to launch a couple of times, most notably in 2020 before the pandemic hit, and yet it remains untouched and dangerous.
- b. Fortunately, COV Engineering removed parking on Arbutus St during COVID, the only safety measure that has been taken in this area even though the Kitsilano Beach Park Greenway project is listed as "underway" in the Playbook implementation plan.
- c. With the pandemic space requirements and dramatically growing numbers of people walking and cycling, our efforts to battle climate change and the Señákw development slated to add 6000 residences directly onto the path by Kits Beach Park, *this needs to be acted on now.*

### **2. Stanley Park Road reallocation**

- a. A huge thank you for having implemented the enormously successful road reallocation in Stanley Park in 2020. We are very pleased to see the resounding "go ahead with road reallocation" from Vancouverites in the survey results.
- b. We were, however, disappointed that the road was returned to its original state at the end of September and we would like to see the bike lane returned now for use as spring approaches. The barriers should be returned at the park entry from and exit to the Causeway for greater safety and to remove rat-running. When the bike lane is returned, we would like to see the Park Drive bike lane extended along Pipeline Road to give families and less confident cyclists a safe shorter return route to the southern entrances of the Park, consistent with the recommendations of the 2012 Stanley Park Cycling Plan.
- c. COVID will still be a factor at least through the summer and we will need to be prepared for the huge numbers of people accessing the park by bike. In addition, in order to accommodate the extreme success of the Beach Ave route, COV is in the process of implementing safety improvements for this route. We expect that this will result in more people accessing the park by bike than we saw in 2020. We will continue to see in excess of 10,000 people/day using Beach Ave by bike and people will expect a safe route in Stanley Park
- d. We understand the process to research the feasibility of permanent road reallocation in Stanley Park will involve further public consultation, including with stakeholders. We look

forward to an opportunity to discuss this further but believe that this process should be happening now, especially with the extremely positive survey results, and that we should have a clear and fast timeline for making a decision on the much needed and desired permanent Stanley Park road reallocation.

Best regards,

Lisa Slakov

HUB Cycling Vancouver Park Board Liaison