

HUB - New Westminster  
Draft Minutes of Hybrid Meeting in Discord and the Ash Street Room  
of New Westminster Public Library (Main Branch)  
Wednesday May 15, 2024

Present: Brad Barber, Andrew Feltham, Shane Griffin, Heidi Hizsa, Fulton Tom (Minutes), Alexander Van Houten, Robert Wong, Michael

Call to order: 6:06 PM

Announcements: Upcoming Events

Hyack Parade (Saturday May 25)

Grand Opening Celebration of t̄əm̄əsew̄tx̄w Aquatic and Community Centre (Saturday June 1)

Bike to School Week Event at New Westminster Secondary School (Thursday June 6)

New to New Westminster Intercultural Festival and Information Fair (Saturday June 8)

Active Transportation Summit (Tuesday June 18 & Wednesday June 19)

New West Farmers Market (Thursday June 27)

Guest: Gavin Hermanson, CoNW Transportation Planner (a cyclist with first-hand knowledge of cycling issues in New Westminster and originally from Hamilton where he was a cycling advocate)

Public engagement regarding year-one Active Transportation Network Plan (ATNP) projects begins on Monday May 20 on Be Heard New West. The City is presenting nearly complete design plans for Boyd Street (west of Wood Street) and 7th Avenue (west of Tenth Street) to the public. Mike Anderson will be the one to approve the plans.

Implementation of the ATNP will be piecemeal and management has been piecemeal due to staffing changes. Gavin has been managing the plan mostly off the side of his desk.

Gavin passed around technical drawings for the Boyd Street and 7th Avenue projects and spoke extensively about these year-one projects.

Boyd Street will be marked as bi-directional from Boundary Road and lighting on the route is planned. The right turn slip lanes with their pork chop islands are being eliminated at Boyd Street and Howes Street. Andrew noted that the intersection is subject to chronic flooding. In front of Queensborough Landing, the multi-user path (MUP) will be physically separated with fencing. Pedestrians are expected to use this MUP instead of the shoulder on the south side of Boyd Street.

Boyd Street improvements are expected to cost more than \$2 million and must be completed before the end of 2024 to prevent the loss of some of the funding. Tendering is expected by August 2024 and completion is expected by November 2024.

Street parking along 7th Avenue between 20th and 22nd Street will be removed. In the long-term (about 20 years), this section will become bike and transit only and motor traffic will be diverted to 23rd Street.

The City is formalizing the use of the alley north of 7th Avenue between Bowler Street and 20th Street to avoid the dogleg by relocating the traffic signal pole and putting sharrows on Bowler Street. Also, relocation of the pole also moves the traffic signals from the far side to the near side for motor vehicles, which will deter vehicles from blocking the 20th Street & 7th Avenue intersection.

Parking restrictions along 7th Avenue east of 20th Street will make it easier for cars and bicycles to pass each other. The stop signs will be switched from 7th Avenue to 18th Street. Curb extensions will be implemented at the intersection of 7th Avenue and 16th Street and car stop markings will be moved back.

Speed cushions with cut-outs for bicycles will be implemented between 12th Street and 16th Street due to wider roadway and a roundabout will be established at 13th Street, a planned bike route.

The section of 7th Avenue between 5th Street and 8th Street is not part of ATNP's year-one projects. Metro Vancouver's water main work, which has been promised for each of the past three years, is expected to proceed finally in 2024.

TransLink is a major funder of the 7th Street project, another year-one project. Traffic volumes on the route may be high enough to warrant a separated bike lane (as opposed to a shared bike route) and one way travel for cars. Diverters at Queens Avenue and Fourth Avenue will keep some motor vehicles off of 7th Street.

Stop signs are being placed on 10th Street where it crosses the Crosstown Greenway. There is an existing stop sign on 7th Avenue.

Alex is concerned that pedestrians are underserved and use bike routes such as the Agnes Street Greenway. Gavin recommended raising such issues on Be Heard New West.

The bike signal at 8th Street and 7th Avenue will not be reinstated. Cyclists have been less safe with the signal's removal. Gavin noted that fully signalizing an intersection costs \$1 million and about \$300,000 if an intersection is already partly signalized.

Low cost upgrades to connect New Westminster and Burnaby will be implemented with no public consultation needed.

Dockless e-bike share is coming to New Westminster with 57 stations and 250 bikes (in three phases) with a goal of 130 stations and 500 bikes. Phase 1 will see 20 stations in the centre of the City. In Hamilton, usage of protected bike lanes and bike share reinforced each other.

Alexander raised concerns with a new steep dogleg on the bike route at Simpson Street and East Columbia Street. The change might be related to construction by Royal Columbian Hospital.

Adjourned: 7:45 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday June 19 at 6 pm