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Sent: Wednesday, December 28, 2016 3:19 PM
To: PF_Eng
Cc: Kristen Meersman
Subject: 2016-2018 Port Coquitlam Bicycle Improvements

Date: December 27, 2016

To: The Transportation Solutions and Public Works Committee,
cc: Kristen Meersman, Director of Engineering
City of Port Coquitlam

Re: 2016-2018 Port Coquitlam Bicycle Improvements

Thank you for considering the comments we provided in June regarding Port Coquitlam's proposals for bike signage and neighbourhood bikeway improvements. We are very excited to see the City investing in bike infrastructure, and we are **keen to receive an update about the status of those proposed improvements, as well as a timeline for when they are intended to be undertaken**. Further to our June comments, we encourage the City to use TransLink's Bicycle Wayfinding Guidelines, so that over time we have consistent recognizable signage across the region: <http://www.translink.ca/en/>

In addition to the \$24,250 budgeted for the signage and infrastructure improvements, we see \$20,000 was allocated for bike racks, which will be great additions to Port Coquitlam's downtown and facilities elsewhere. We note that there may be \$5,750 remaining from the \$50,000 budgeted for cycling this year. We encourage the City to put that remaining funding into cycling - either towards additional infrastructure improvements, or cycling education or promotion programs. HUB had great success with providing a cycling course at Minnekhada Middle School this year, funded by the Port Coquitlam Community Foundation, and would be keen to run more courses of this kind. As cycling education has been shown to boost ridership and improve safety, we hope the City will consider bringing cycling education to more PoCo middle schools.

It was very encouraging to see funding allocated to cycling this year, and we were even more encouraged to read in the local paper that \$300,000 has been allocated to active transportation improvements (<http://www.tricitynews.com/>). We hope this will become an annual investment as 2017 will bring huge opportunities for boosting cycling:

- The opening of the Evergreen Line means that many more Port Coquitlam residents will have the option to cycle a short distance to rapid transit as the first part of their commute to work or to other destinations. Improvements to the connections to the Coquitlam stations will be critical. In the short term, signage is needed to direct riders over the Patricia pedestrian overpass and through the Westwood-Woodlands neighbourhood to the Lincoln station. On the PoCo side, there is currently no signage indicating this is a cycling river crossing. In the longer term, we envision a safe and direct connection from downtown, such as along Lougheed or through Kingsway and Westwood to the Coquitlam Central Centre station. We are pleased to see that the design of a route is included in the Infrastructure Planning business plan for 2017/2018.
- The September TSPW agenda included consideration of some widening of the Lougheed Highway from Sherling to Ottawa. Since the multi-use path from the bridge ends at Sherling, we see a great opportunity to extend cycling facilities to Ottawa as part of this capital improvement.
- There are some 'low hanging fruit' opportunities for low-cost improvements in PoCo that would start to create the kind of minimum grid that is needed to make more people feel safe cycling on a regular basis. Kingsway Avenue and Oxford Street, for example, are both wide enough to stripe in bike lanes protected by a

buffer of parked cars. This is one of the lowest cost ways to create protected cycling infrastructure, and in these situations, no travel or parking lanes would be reduced.

- The second annual PoCo Grand Prix will also help keep cycling in the spotlight, and we hope some of the road cycling energy will transfer over to enthusiasm for biking as an everyday transportation mode choice. HUB will look for ways to get involved this year to help make this happen.
- HUB's first annual Bike to Shop was a huge success in Vancouver this year, and we will be looking to partner with cities like PoCo and its BIA to bring this event to the Tri-Cities in 2017.
- The Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) is expected to release updated guidelines in early 2017, which will provide much more guidance on bike lanes, intersections, and cycling-friendly traffic calming. HUB is planning to host an educational session for City staff and politicians to introduce these new guidelines and encourage all cities to implement them.
- The opportunities for cycling infrastructure cost sharing will increase in 2017. There is additional BikeBC provincial funding available, and TransLink's Phase 1 implementation will make significant funding available for cycling improvements through its BICCS cost-sharing program. The federal government is also expected to announce funding specific to active transportation. These are good reasons to have projects planned and shelf-ready to leverage every City dollar.

Thank you for considering our comments. We look forward to hearing updates about this year's investments in cycling improvements and staying engaged with future opportunities.

Best wishes for 2017,

Andrew Hartline and Jack Trumley

HUB Cycling Tri-Cities Committee Co-Chairs