

April 15, 2021

Honourable Bowinn Ma, M.L.A.
Minister of State for Infrastructure
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Government of British Columbia
PO Box 9422 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC, V8W 9V1

Re: Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project – Connections for Cycling and Walking

Dear Minister Ma,

The Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project is the one of the largest and most impactful transportation projects currently underway in British Columbia. This crossing is particularly important for walking and cycling, due to its proximity to dense residential neighbourhoods and employment centres in both New Westminster and Surrey, and its connections to two greenways of regional significance, the BC Parkway and the Central Valley Greenway.

Over the past few years, the BC Cycling Coalition has been involved in consultations led by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure project team and the Environmental Assessment Office on the Pattullo project. As a result of this process, we were able to express our support for the configurations and designs of separated, delineated active transportation paths on the bridge deck, and of direct cycling and walking connections on both sides of the bridge; other issues, such as the omission of a noise, dust and pollution barrier between the roadway and the cycling and pedestrian paths, remained unresolved.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input and support for the active transportation-related goals of the project; however, we want to make you aware of a recent, problematic development that could undermine the publicly stated goal of better connections to, from, and near the bridge.

The road and path configurations of the current design have changed substantially from the concept plan around which Ministry consultations were predicated; these changes appear to have occurred since the awarding of the contract for this project to Fraser Crossing Partners.

We join HUB Cycling in expressing concerns that these changes will negatively impact people walking and cycling on and around the approaches to the new Pattullo Bridge:

- At the north end, the Central Valley Greenway (CVG), a cornerstone infrastructure asset for active transportation in the entire region, as well as a critical east-west link within New Westminster, is now **significantly steeper and less direct**.
- At the south end, while substantial upgrades have been made to the design of highway connections, the project relies on existing pedestrian overpasses that **fail to meet contemporary design guidelines for multi-use paths**.

These circumstances suggest that the primary consideration in the design development process is motor vehicle access, at the cost of the directness and efficiency of cycling and pedestrian routes.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA CYCLING COALITION

Design feedback from BC's cycling community has been received prior to, but not incorporated into, major provincial transportation infrastructure projects in the past, resulting in a series of negative outcomes for cycling and walking. Examples include the Pitt River Bridge and Port Mann Bridge replacement projects, as well as the Sea to Sky Highway improvements; the performance specifications that were expected, based on consultations with representatives of your Ministry, were not delivered by your Ministry's procurement process.

Our belief is that CleanBC and 'Move Commute Connect', the provincial government's active transportation strategy, must result in changes to how walking and cycling facilities are designed and integrated into major transportation infrastructure projects.

As such, we respectfully request that your Ministry immediately review the latest designs for the Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project, and consider changes that will help meet the project goal to "improve connectivity, reliability and modal choice while supporting environmental objectives" and the promise that "improved walking and cycling paths will connect to the bridge and facilitate better east-west travel across the city."

Should you wish to discuss this, or our role in this project, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



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cc:

Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI), Province of British Columbia
Hon. Josie Osborne, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Province of British Columbia
Hon. George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Province of British Columbia
Mayor and Council, City of New Westminster
Mayor and Council, City of Surrey
Katherine Kirby, Executive Director, Policy and Legislation, Programs & Corporate Initiatives, MoTI
Board of Directors and staff, HUB Cycling
Board of Directors, The British Columbia Cycling Coalition