

Meeting Minister of Healthy Living and Sports Ida Chong and MLA Marc Dalton with VACC delegation in Maple Ridge on July 21, 2010, in Maple Ridge

The Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Chapter of the Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition would like the Minister to consider the following very important local issue in Maple Ridge.

Maple Ridge has two major arteries as the only direct east-west routes: Lougheed Highway and Dewdney Trunk Road. The residential areas in Maple Ridge form a long stretched out corridor from east to west and therefore east-west connections are very important for our community, even more so because the many north-south gulleys make it difficult and expensive to provide these connections.

Dewdney Trunk Road is considered a very unsafe route for cyclists. An alternate route from 203rd St. to 240th St. has been established (the 1-2-3 Route).

Cyclists of all ages and all abilities need to be able to bike along Lougheed Highway on separated bike facilities. Safety issues for cyclists are going to worsen as Maple Ridge expands farther eastward and traffic increases.

- On-road biking on Lougheed only for “strong and fearless” type cyclists. Majority of cyclists on Lougheed Highway bike on the sidewalk.
- High volume/high speed traffic, with a considerable number of heavy trucks: need separation for cyclists along Lougheed from Meadowtown Mall (Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows border) to 240th Street.
- Provincial grant funding (Climate Action Program) was received by the District to do a concept design for a separated multi-use path (on north side only) from 222nd Street to Laity Street. The District is committed to this project and has set aside funding. Additional funding will be required, and the District is hoping to be able to receive another grant through a provincial grant Program.
- Safety for cyclists and pedestrians on Lougheed Highway in downtown Maple Ridge east of 222nd Street and west of 228th Street can be improved significantly by widening Haney Bypass to 4 lanes all the way to Lougheed at Kanaka Way, which would encourage more through traffic to take the Bypass.

Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Chapter Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition

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