

June 28, 2024

Pitt Meadows City Council

Re: New Safe Passing Distance Law

Dear Mayor MacDonald and Councillors:

Starting June 3, 2024, all vulnerable road users in British Columbia will have new protections under the new Vulnerable Road User Law which requires people driving vehicles to always drive safely and give space when passing vulnerable road users.

Under this new regulation, people driving vehicles must maintain a distance of at least one metre when passing people on bikes or other vulnerable road users.

On roads with a speed limit above 50 kilometres per hour, that distance increases to 1.5 metres.

This rule will also apply to painted bike lanes - drivers must keep a distance of at least one metre (or 1.5 metres) when passing people on bikes in painted bike lanes.

The minimum passing distance is measured from the furthest protruding part of a passing motor vehicle (e.g. a mirror) and the furthest protruding part of vulnerable road user or their equipment (e.g. handlebar).

Police have the power to issue violation tickets and fines for contraventions of the new vulnerable road user safety laws. Penalties range from:

- Failing to take proper precautions with vulnerable road users - \$109 and 3 driver penalty points.
- Failing to maintain prescribed minimum passing distances - \$368 and 3 driver penalty points.

To a maximum fine of \$2,000 and 6 months of imprisonment.

HUB Cycling is requesting that the city of Pitt Meadows disseminate information on these new regulations to all current and incoming drivers operating city-owned and contracted vehicles.

We are also requesting that the city of Pitt Meadows update all driver education materials to incorporate this new regulation and help protect vulnerable road users.

By providing comprehensive training programs that focus on the unique challenges and hazards these road users face, we can equip drivers with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate shared road spaces more safely. This includes understanding the dynamics of bicycle movements, recognizing the importance of safe passing distances, and being aware of high-risk areas such as intersections and bike lanes.

Improved education will foster a culture of attentiveness and caution, reducing accidents and fostering a safer, more harmonious relationship between vehicles and the vulnerable individuals who share the road.

Thank you,

Jenny Wright and Jackie Chow
Co-Chairs, Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows HUB Cycling

About HUB Cycling

HUB Cycling is a charitable not-for-profit organization that has spent over 25 years removing barriers to cycling in Metro Vancouver while cultivating the health, environmental, and economic benefits that active transportation can bring. HUB has educated thousands of people, motivated thousands more, and championed improvements that [#UnGapTheMap](#) to create a connected cycling network. HUB Cycling's mission is to get more people cycling more often. HUB Cycling has close to 4,000 members and more than 50,000 direct supporters. HUB Cycling has 10 volunteer committees across Metro Vancouver that encourage cycling for all ages and abilities (AAA) in municipalities across Metro Vancouver. For more information, visit bikehub.ca.