

February 22, 2024

RE: Consideration of transit within Stanley Park

Dear Burrard Peninsula Area Transport Plan Team,

My name is Lisa Slakov and, as the HUB Cycling Vancouver-UBC Local Committee Park Board Liaison, I am writing on behalf of HUB Cycling to add to the communication with recommendations for the ATP that was sent from our organization on October 27, 2023.¹

We believe that among the many urgent and important issues that TransLink is currently addressing in the region, **public transit around Stanley Park deserves immediate attention**. The park is currently accessed by transit using the #19 which only brings people a short way into the park and certainly doesn't allow for access to the multitude of very popular park destinations around the park.

HUB Cycling has been working for many years to make Stanley Park more equitably accessible to the public and most of the park remains largely only accessible to people using private motor vehicles. As TransLink states: "Imagine a future where every person in Metro Vancouver – no matter who they are, where they live, or how they choose to get around – can easily connect to the places that matter most."

We worked closely with the Park Board to make a successful bike lane on Park Drive a part of ensuring that the park was more equitably accessible; it was a key component of greater mobility options but was removed in 2023. We understand that appropriate transit service in the park would be a critical aspect of not only ensuring greater public access but also of freeing up road space from private motor vehicles, allowing space for alternatives such as a Park Drive bike lane.

This is an **urgent issue at this time because the long-awaited Stanley Park Mobility Study is expected to come to the Park Board in April**. This Study has consistently shown that the park needs -and the public wants- more mobility options, and some form of public transport is critical for that. Please reference the [Mobility Study update of July 18, 2023](#) and of [November 27, 2023](#) for more information. In addition, the Nov 27th report updated on the removal of the bike lane and showed significant negative safety impacts after the bike lane was removed: there has been an almost 5 time increase in the number of vehicles traveling over 50km/h (in a 30 km/h zone!).

However, we have understood from various Park Board commissioners over time that, without the **potential for transit in the park, it is unlikely that we will get the mobility options we need**.

It would be of great significance if TransLink could engage with the Park Board on this topic prior to the Study coming to the Board in April.

¹ [HUB Cycling Recommendations for the Burrard Peninsula Transport Plan](#), Oct 2023

We know that TransLink overall and the Burrard Peninsula ATP specifically have a commitment to a number of critical issues including: climate action, encouraging active transportation, equitable access for all and access to nature. We believe that having appropriate transit in our iconic Stanley Park will not only help address those issues, but will amplify this important message by showing that reduced motor vehicle traffic is the way of the future in a highly visible way. This is the direction that significant urban parks throughout the world are taking, including Central Park and Golden Gate Parks in the US and, closer to home, Hyde Park in Toronto and Mont Royal Park in Montreal.

We strongly encourage TransLink to include transit throughout Stanley Park in the Burrard Peninsula Area Plan. This destination park is a critical part of leisure, recreation, and experiencing nature in our region by residents and visitors and deserves to be less motor vehicle centred. A key element in achieving that goal is by providing frequent and convenient transit access.

We would be very happy to provide any further information on this and/or discuss this issue with you.

Best regards,

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About HUB Cycling

HUB Cycling is a charitable not for profit organization that has spent over 22 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 3,000 members and more than 45,000 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.