



Your **Cycling** Connection

bikehub.ca



To: Bowinn Ma, Minister of State for Infrastructure

bowinn.ma.MLA@leg.bc.ca

cc: The Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure,

Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy,

ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Re: Widening Project Highway 7 - 266th to 287th Street, Maple Ridge

Dear Minister Ma,

We write on behalf of the Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Local Committee of HUB Cycling, to urgently request your attention to the following matter.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure will be widening the last section of Highway 7 between Maple Ridge and Mission, between 266 and 287 St., and is presently working on the design.

Our local HUB Committee, together with several representatives of the regional HUB Cycling organization, met with the design team in September and subsequently provided our [feedback](#) on the preliminary design.

The significant concern we have with regard to this project is that the planned 2-meter-wide shoulder is inappropriately considered an **"acceptable minimum width active transportation facility"** by the design team¹. According to the British Columbia Active Transportation Guidelines, both present and projected future traffic volumes and current speeds, as well as the high volume of truck traffic along this route, most definitely warrant separated facilities. A 2-meter shoulder along this busy, high speed highway is a daunting place to ride for even the most fearless riders. Such a dangerous space should never be considered "acceptable".

In July of this year, 24-year old Daphne Toumbanakis was killed while riding on the shoulder near this section of Highway 7 where it already had been widened to four lanes.² The shoulder on which Daphne tragically and needlessly lost her life is very similar to what is presently being planned.

¹ [Response MoTI dated Dec. 2, 2020](#)

² [CTV News: "Cyclist killed in Maple Ridge was beginning cross-country ride, friends say"](#)

For the above reasons, we kindly but urgently request your intervention in this matter.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss the issues in more detail.

Please contact us at mapleridge-pittmeadows@bikehub.ca.

Sincerely,

Ivan Chow, Co-chair, Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows HUB Committee
Jeff Leigh, Co-Chair, Regional Advisory Committee, HUB Cycling

cc: Evan Hammer, Infrastructure and Policy Manager, HUB Cycling

About HUB Cycling

HUB Cycling is a charitable not for profit organization that has spent over 20 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 40,000 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.

JC/IC/JL//EoM