

From: **Livolsi, Patrick C**

Date: Wed, Feb 10, 2016 at 11:46 PM

Subject: RE: Feedback: Massey Tunnel Replacement Project Definition Report

Erin

Thanks very much for your letter of January 28 regarding the Project Definition Report for the George Massey Tunnel Replacement project

I appreciated receiving HUB's thoughtful feedback on the cycling infrastructure plans for the new bridge and specifically your concerns regarding how the new multiuse path on the bridge will connect within the adjacent communities.

As you indicated, the replacement bridge will be a significant investment in removing a key gap in the cycling network in the lower mainland. Ensuring that the bridge accommodates all modes of mobility including cycling efficiently and at a high level of service is a primary objective of the project. In particular, we fully understand that as much as a new path on the bridge opens up increased cycling opportunities, without good connections leading to and from the bridge to either local or more distant destinations, cycling growth at the crossing would always remain constrained.

You are correct that the cycling infrastructure as noted in the PDR has been primarily focussed on the bridge itself with immediate connections to the municipalities. As you are aware, Highway 99 is classified a Schedule 1 Highway /Freeway and does not permit cycling directly on the roadway due to safety with the high volumes of traffic. It is understood that cyclists would access the new bridge via designated cycling routes that are within the municipality.

As a cyclist myself, I understand the various needs of cyclists whether it be the recreational rider with their family looking for a scenic experience, the commuter looking for an efficient route or a touring cyclist looking for an efficient and scenic route with services. The bridge represents a great opportunity to provide an attractive cycling route for many generations to come. The first step is ensuring that we can provide a robust cycling facility for all types of cyclists is to ensure that we have a common understanding of the preferred cycling network for the area.

You'll be pleased to know that the ministry is initiating a GMTR Cycling Working Group, engaging with the local communities and cycling stakeholders like HUB to develop a joint master cycling plan for the project corridor and larger catchment area. The intention of the group is to identify options and make recommendations on the most appropriate cycling routes along the entire project corridor as well as broader

community network. This would include identifying the most appropriate routes to travel to local destinations within the communities as well as points farther away such as BC Ferries, Surrey and the City of Vancouver. Any approved recommendations that are within the boundaries of the project would be included as part of the scope of the replacement bridge. Improvements recommended on municipal roadways would be prioritized and municipalities encouraged to apply to the Provincial BikeBC grants over the next several years to obtain cost sharing to get these off-corridor improvements completed.

You will be hearing from the project team shortly to get this Working Group underway. I encourage HUB to have one or two members participate in this Working Group to ensure your thoughts and ideas are shared and discussed with the working team. I am looking forward to seeing the results in a new strategic cycling plan that will inform the development of the George Massey Tunnel Replacement project scope.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the project team directly or myself at any time.

Sincerely,

Patrick C. Livolsi, P. Eng.
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