

May 5, 2025

**Mayor and Council**

mayorandcouncillors@newwestcity.ca

Dear Mayor and Council,

**Re: 6th Avenue between McBride Boulevard and Cumberland Street**

On behalf of the HUB Cycling New Westminster Committee, we are writing to express our strong support for the upcoming project to improve the cycling infrastructure along 6th Avenue between McBride Boulevard and Cumberland Street.

Our committee had the opportunity to review the plans for this section at the request of City of New Westminster staff and the general consensus among our committee and its members was that the plan is thoughtful, well-designed, and a significant step forward for better active transportation in the city.

We are particularly grateful for City staff efforts to meaningfully consult with vulnerable road users during the planning process. It's clear that this feedback has been taken seriously, resulting in infrastructure that better meets the needs of people who walk, cycle, and roll. Integrating this project as part of a larger, connected cycling network is a vital approach that we commend.

This bike lane will provide an important, safe connection between the community centre, Skwo:wech Elementary, Glenbrook Middle School, the 7th Ave Crosstown Greenway, and Queen's Park. Many children and families cycle between these destinations and it's important to allow them to move about their neighbourhood safely and to encourage normalizing transportation through active travel.

While the 7th Avenue pathway is frequently used by many residents, the 6th Avenue corridor plays an essential role as a direct and efficient route, especially for those traveling to and from Queen's Park and beyond. We are pleased to see that both corridors are receiving attention and improvements.

The Multi-Use Path between the parking lot and the Justice Institute, which provides a direct connection between the McBride Overpass and the CTG on 7th Avenue is nice, but due to the hill at 7th and Shiles, many people (mostly children) on bikes and those using wheeled mobility devices opt to take a flatter route along 6th. (This is backed up by the Strava Heatmap data for cycling in this area.). These upcoming improvements will add protections to a cycling route that is already in heavy use, especially amongst vulnerable active transportation users.

Investing in safe, accessible walking and biking infrastructure leads to safer, more livable communities. It also helps reduce traffic congestion and noise by providing residents with sustainable, affordable alternatives to driving.

Research consistently shows that safe and well-separated cycling infrastructure significantly increases the number of people choosing to bike and engage in active travel. When protected bike lanes and dedicated cycling routes are available, more individuals feel confident and safe enough to cycle for commuting, errands, and recreation. As infrastructure improves, rates of active travel grow accordingly, leading to broader public health, environmental, and economic benefits. Furthermore, by providing viable alternatives to car travel, cycle lanes can help reduce traffic congestion, making urban transport systems more efficient for everyone.

Thank you again for prioritizing active transportation and for making New Westminster streets connected and safer for road users of all ages and abilities. We look forward to seeing the improvements on 6th Avenue and continuing to support your work toward a more bike-friendly New Westminster.

Sincerely,

Heidi Hizsa and Andrew Feltham  
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