Environment Committee Recommendations for Active Transportation

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Environment Committee recommends to Council the following actions to improve active transportation options in the District of West Vancouver for all residents and visitors:

- 1. proceed as soon as possible to produce the planned update to the District's Strategic Transportation Plan so that the information can be used to facilitate planning for the implementation of the Ambleside and Taylor Way Corridor Local Area Plans and the possible development of Cypress Village which could also guide the District's transportation planning related to a future TransLink Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) hub at Park Royal North;
- 2. continue to refer to the BC Active Transportation Design Guide to ensure that new active transportation infrastructure is as safe as possible for users of the District's pedestrian and cycling networks;
- 3. work towards the visionary goal of a Spirit Trail across the North Shore between Horseshoe Bay and Deep Cove by expanding the existing Spirit Trail westward from Ambleside, and separate people on bicycles from automobile and pedestrian traffic on the Spirit Trail between 14th Street and 16th Street of Argyle Avenue so that there will be a protected bike path all the way between 13th Street and 17th Street, with a five-year vision plan and implementation strategy to establish a safe biking connection between Ambleside and Horseshoe Bay, including transforming Marine Drive or Bellevue Avenue (18th Street to 26th Street) into a slow-speed road with protected bike lanes, prioritizing biking and enhancing safety for all road users;
- 4. address key gaps in the existing pedestrian network, including important gaps close to schools:
- 5. continue to make improvements that can easily accommodate the use of sidewalks by those people with disabilities;
- 6. work towards the goal of having a safe and attractive bikeway (protected from automobile and pedestrian traffic) in the Marine Drive corridor between Dundarave and the Lions Gate Bridge, including the prioritization of a protected bikeway bypass of the Spirit Trail between Ambleside and the Welch Street Bridge over the Capilano River;
- 7. provide funding for HUB's bicycle education courses to be given to all the schools each year and sponsor one of HUB's Go By Bike Week celebration stations twice yearly;
- 8. contribute on a shared-funding basis to update and print copies of the hard-covered, multi-folded North Shore Bike Map and/or consider a bike website to find further information about biking in West Vancouver, including the map, and possible signage with QR codes directing to this website, including a short educational video on biking;
- 9. expand the installation of wayfinding signage on the District's cycling and pedestrian networks by including information such as distances to destinations and travel time estimates;

- 10. apply in 2025 through TransLink's Car Free Days of Summer website to host one or more car-free days in West Vancouver in the summer of 2025, including participation of the North Shore Safety Council, the Ambleside Dundarave Business Improvement Association, and HUB North Shore as was planned for the canceled event on September 26, 2020;
- 11. consider re-establishing the signage along the Village Walk and installing signs along the proposed Village Bike Loop which runs on relatively safe streets through Ambleside and Dundarave to provide cyclists a connection to many of the District's public facilities including three schools and nine parks;
- 12. pursue the possibility of joining the City of North Vancouver and District of North Vancouver in participating in the province's pilot project to legalize e-scooters until 2028;
- 13. consult with the West Vancouver Memorial Library to gauge interest in participating in a cargo e-bike rental program during the months of April through September;
- 14. expand restricting automobile speed limits to 30 km/hr along the District's bike routes;
- 15. install bike racks and/or parking options for cyclists to safely secure their bikes at key destinations and bus stops; and
- 16. explore free local transit days during, for example, the West Vancouver Community Cultural Fest, pending further assessment of its costs.