

From: Jackie Chow (jchow23708@yahoo.ca)

To: Michael Eng; tcamire@mapleridge.ca

Date: Fri, January 8, 2010 11:25:13 AM

Cc: VACC PM/PM yahoo groups; Dave Bantle; Ivan Chow; Tom Duck; Rick and Anne Halas; Peter Jongbloed; Mike Kingston; John Parfitt; Alex Pope; Dave Rush; Steve Schleicher; Ali Wakeling

Subject: proposed updated highway and traffic by-law

To: Michael Eng, District of Maple Ridge

Please find below comments from the Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Chapter of the Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition on the proposed updated highway and traffic by-law:

1)

"The Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Chapter of the Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition (VACC) is encouraged to see the acknowledgement by the District, through the proposed updated Highways and Traffic By-Law, that a need exists for improved safety for cyclists in our municipalities.

The VACC supports allowing cyclists to use sidewalks when certain roads are deemed to be too dangerous for cycling. However, it is our understanding that on certain sidewalks with higher pedestrian traffic volumes cyclists will not be allowed. The VACC strongly urges the District to allow cyclists on the sidewalks on Dewdney Trunk Road and Lougheed Highway, including those sections that are in the Town Centre. These are important connectors for all traffic, including cyclists. These roadways are presently not safe for cyclists **of all ages and abilities**, and until they are made safe, cyclists should be allowed to bike on the sidewalks, with due care and consideration. While presently cyclists are not allowed on the sidewalks along Dewdney Trunk Road and Lougheed Highway, many cyclists do so anyway because they are concerned about their safety. If these are the roads that will most conveniently and efficiently lead cyclists to their destinations, cyclists should be encouraged to use these roads by improving their safety. We would like the district to strongly support and encourage alternative modes of transportation, such as cycling, which is particularly important in the town centre area, which should be made accessible to all.

Furthermore, we would like the proposed by-law to also allow cyclists to use crosswalks with the same due care and consideration. Having to dismount at every crosswalk would be a significant deterrent to many cyclists, and would definitely not increase cycling participation among residents of Maple Ridge.

2)

In the proposed new by-law the definition of "cycle path" is as follows: "'Cycle Path" means that portion of a highway that is designated for the use of cycle traffic and which is adjacent to but separated from roadways provided for vehicular traffic **by means of road markings;**"

A universally accepted term for this is "cycle lane". A cycle path is different from a cycle lane in that it has a clear physical separation from the part of the highway that is used by motorized vehicle traffic, not just road markings. We only have cycle lanes in Maple Ridge, no cycle paths. It's important to properly distinguish the two terms here to avoid confusion. The VACC therefore would suggest to change the use of the term "cycle path" to "cycle lane".

3)

Regarding 25.0 Removal of snow and ice and other matters:

The VACC recognizes that by-laws are only supposed to define the responsibilities of residents. At the same time the VACC would like to point out the responsibilities of the city on this matter.

Among the policies in the transportation section of the OCP under "cyclists" some of the responsibilities of the city have been defined: "Maple Ridge will make road safety a priority in the

planning, operation and maintenance of the road network for cycling in the District."
Under "pedestrians": "Maple Ridge will make road safety a priority in the planning, operation and maintenance of sidewalks and the pedestrian network."

The VACC would like to request the city to follow these policies in the OCP, and ensure that the same maintenance standard used for those sections of highways used by motor vehicles is applied to bike lanes and sidewalks/pathways. With the exceptional snow fall which the District experienced in the winter of 2008/9, many sidewalks and bike lanes which fall under the responsibility of the District were unusable for many weeks, while only roadways were cleared of snow for cars. A considerable percentage of Maple Ridge residents do not own cars, but do pay taxes, and therefore would like to be able to get around by alternative transportation modes such as walking or cycling.

Yours sincerely,
Jackie Chow
Communications
Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Chapter
Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition"

All new Yahoo! Mail - Get a sneak peak at messages with a handy reading pane.

Highlights:

- > 11.1 A person on cycles, roller skates, a skateboard or other means of transportation,
- > shall not ride without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for
- > other persons using a sidewalk, footpath or walkway.
- >
- > 12.1 Except when necessary to avoid conflict with traffic, or to comply with the law, or the
- > directions of a peace officer or traffic control device and except while operating a
- > municipal or provincial utility vehicle or vehicles of a public utility corporation while
- > engaged in their duties, or except a vehicle so mechanically disabled as to render it
- > immobile, no person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle:
- > o) Paths - on a cycle path, pedestrian walkway or equestrian trail;
- >