



Your Cycling Connection

bikehub.ca



January 23, 2021

To: Maple Ridge Mayor and Council
Cc: Josh Mickleborough, Director of Engineering
Mark Halpin, Manager of Transportation

Re: Council Workshop January 26; presentation by MoTI on Hwy 7 widening 266 to 287 St.

Dear Mayor and Council,

We would appreciate your attention to the need for **safe** active transportation infrastructure as part of the Highway 7 widening project by MoTI. What is presently being proposed is a **terrifying** place to walk and cycle for most people and will do absolutely nothing to convince anyone other than the strongest and most fearless cyclists, and those who simply have no choice, to walk or cycle along this busy, high speed highway.

Our HUB Committee explained our position in detail in [our letter](#) to MoTI of October 16, 2020. We feel anything other than separated, protected infrastructure is unacceptable.

We would like to point out that TransLink, **in consultation and in agreement with the City of Maple Ridge**, determined where the Major Bike Network through Maple Ridge should be located. The route is meant to be safe for all ages and abilities. As you can see, Highway 7 is part of the Major Bike Network. There is no alternative route:



Further, in Summer last year, Council expressed your support for the Regional Greenways 2050 map of our area - as updated by municipal staff - which was subsequently submitted to Metro Vancouver. Highway 7 is shown as an essential part of this network. Again, the route needs to be safe for all ages and abilities.



MoTI shows Highway 7 as part of its **Primary Cycling Network** (see Figure 7: Recommended Regional Cycling Network") in its [Metro Vancouver Regional Cycling Connections Study](#) (April 2019):



Last July, 23-year old Daphne Toumbanakis was tragically killed just west of this stretch of Hwy 7 while cycling on the 2 meter wide shoulder, just like the one that's being proposed by MoTI as "safe" active transportation infrastructure as part of the design between 266 and 287 Street.

As far as we know, MoTI has not made any attempt to resolve any of the apparent "constraints". Their intention is to ensure "uniform design" all along the Highway 7 corridor, which is very misguided when it clearly puts people walking and cycling in significant danger.

We acknowledge that this is a MoTI jurisdiction project, but it has strong implications for the residents of Maple Ridge.

We hope that you will strongly and clearly express your concerns with what's planned in terms of active transportation infrastructure. We also ask that you put your concerns in writing to MoTI so that it is documented and can be referenced later.

With kind regards,

Jackie Chow
HUB Cycling
Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Committee

JC/JW/IC/JL/NC/EoM

About HUB Cycling

HUB Cycling is a charitable not for profit organization that has spent over 22 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 45,000 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.