

June 21 , 2024

To: Mayor and Council City of Pitt Meadows <council@pittmeadows.ca>

Re: Active Transportation grants

Mayor and Council,

As Pitt Meadows' elected officials, last year you approved a fantastic [Active Transportation Plan \(2023\)](#).

To realize this ambitious plan, it's important to be able to take advantage of any available grant funding that can be used to leverage city investment in walking and cycling infrastructure.

We would like to draw your attention to TransLink's Local Government Funding Program report that was recently presented to the Mayors' Council at their meeting on May 30. You can find the report in the meeting agenda¹.

Page 21 of 70 (page 6 of the report) shows that Pitt Meadows left a total of \$257,582 of allocated grant funding on the table in 2024 alone. That's the most of all Metro Vancouver local governments. This includes funding for walking infrastructure (WITT).

The two sources of TransLink funding that can be used for cycling infrastructure are BICCS grants (Bicycle Infrastructure Capital Cost Share) and MRNB grants (Major Road Network and Bicycle). Below are the amounts that were allocated to, and applied for by the City of Pitt Meadows for 2024:

	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Applied</u>	<u>Unused</u>
BICCS	\$75,000	\$46,452	\$28,548
MRNB	\$238,000	\$60,966	<u>\$177,034</u>

Total unused allocated funding that could have been used for cycling infrastructure: **\$205,582**.

Apart from the funding that was specifically allocated for Pitt Meadows, it would have been possible to apply for competitive funding. Pitt Meadows did not apply.

Also, from 2017-2023 Pitt Meadows left \$1,763,216 allocated active transportation funding unused and was second lowest for applying for competitive funding across those years. (page 32/70 of the agenda/page 17 of the report).

¹ Agenda Mayors' Council meeting with Local Government Funding Program report (starts on page 15/70 of the agenda):
<https://www.translink.ca/-/media/translink/documents/about-translink/governance-and-board/council-minutes-and-reports/2024/may/agenda--mayors-council--public-mtg--may-30-2024.pdf>

There's still an opportunity to apply for TransLink grants totalling more than \$300,000 in allocated cost share funding starting this September. TransLink will fund up to 75% of bikeways on the Major Bikeway Network and in the urban centre.

There are also grant opportunities this year through the provincial Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program (BCATIG)², the intake for which begins on September 3. The province cost-shares to a maximum of \$500,000 per infrastructure project. Eligible percentage of funding for Pitt Meadows would be 80% if in partnership with an Indigenous community - the Katzie First Nation - otherwise 60%.

We understand that the barrier to the City not applying for all available grants was due to a lack of staff capacity, and possibly inadequate City active transportation funding. We're encouraged to read in Tuesday Council agenda that the City is proceeding with a 2-year trial position to help with pursuing important active transportation initiatives including applying for all available grants.

We again express our strong support for the implementation of the City's Active Transportation Plan, which can only be realized if the City is willing to put its money where its mouth is. We therefore encourage Mayor and Council to ensure that the required resourcing is made available to take full advantage of cost sharing opportunities in the near future, i.e. by applying this year for the 2025 TransLink and BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants, as well as any available TransLink and provincial active transportation grants in future years.

We would like to take this opportunity to send you attached our updated *#UnGapTheMap* gap list, which shows our Local Committee's priorities for improvements of the cycling network in Pitt Meadows.

Yours sincerely,

HUB Cycling
Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Committee

About HUB Cycling

HUB Cycling is a charitable not for profit organization that has spent over 25 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 over 3,000 members and more than 50,000 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.

² BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/funding-engagement-permits/funding-grants/active-transportation-infrastructure-grants>