

Mayor Corrigan and Burnaby City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, BC V5G 1M2

December 1, 2015

RE: Traffic Safety Risks on Burnaby Mountain Parkway

Dear Traffic Safety Committee,

The purpose of this letter is to bring to your attention the unsafe conditions of a stretch of Burnaby Mountain Parkway. The stretch of road in reference has a distance of 650 metres and spans from the intersection of Centennial Way and Burnaby Mountain Parkway to the location where Gaglardi Way merges with Burnaby Mountain Parkway (westbound). It has a posted speed limit of 60 km/h.

This section of road:

- Has a high volume of road users, including private automobiles, buses (135 and 144), and cyclists;
- Is unlit without a single streetlight;
- Does not have reflectors; and,
- Does not have bike-safe storm grates on the shoulders.

It should be noted that the City of Burnaby's design standards for street lighting specify that street lights should be spaced every 50 metres; however, the section of road in question is unlit for 650 metres.

The aforementioned characteristics make the stretch of road high-risk for all users. Of particular concern is the risk posed to vulnerable cyclists. Our observations suggest that cyclists are: (a) very difficult to see in the dark along this stretch of road, and (b) are forced to ride close to the road lane due to the presence of conventional storm grates on the shoulder. The risk for an accidental collision is high.

In addition to posing safety risks, we have also found the present conditions prevent cycling. This past Spring, we conducted a survey of 437 SFU staff, faculty, and students. Potential cyclists cited inadequate lighting on bike routes as one of the greatest deterrents for cycling, and current cyclists perceived lightning as one of the most preferred improvements.

To address the safety risks highlighted in this letter, we recommend the City of Burnaby:

- Install streetlights to adequately illuminate the 650 metre stretch of road; and,
- Replace the present storm grates on the westbound shoulder with bike-safe storm grates that cyclists can pass over.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

Josh Cairns

Executive Director of Embark
WMC 2621
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6

on behalf of ***SFU's Cycling Subcommittee*** and ***Sustainable Mobility Advisory Committee***