

February 1/2016

Transportation Committee
c/o Office of the City Clerk
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, BC V5G 1M2

Dear Traffic Safety Committee,

I am writing this letter to the Traffic Safety Committee to bring your attention to an issue of cyclist and pedestrian safety issues along Underhill/Broadway to Underhill/Eastlake corridor. See the attached map. I would like the Traffic Safety Committee to consider a redesign of the area that would make this area safer for cyclists and pedestrians who use this corridor.

I am a 30 year resident of the Forest Grove area, I ride my bike daily to work. In the last 5 or so years I have noticed a large increase of traffic in the area with a subsequent effect on my safety as a daily bike commuter.

The problem of the morning commute. I ride down from 8400 Forest Grove each morning through the Burnaby Conservation Area, and along a gravel path/walkway (going west) to the east corner of Underhill and Broadway. I hop onto the Urban Trail that takes me south. The Urban Trail is right next to Mammoth Studios (formerly Sears). I ride along the Urban Trail for a 50 feet or so, but my intention is to cross the street which has two/three lanes of bi-directional traffic. My intention is to go south on Underhill as my goal is to get to Enterprise St and go west to my place of employment. Every morning it's an adventure to try to figure out how to cross without being killed. Will I judge the speed of the cars accurately? Will they see me? What other options are there? As I stop and consider my options, and realize cutting across the street is the best of them all, I look over my right shoulder, I see traffic going east on Broadway is turning right and moving south down Underhill, and as I look left the traffic moving up Underhill going north. This is the A-1 option as noted on my map. Depending on the visibility and time of day I cut across diagonally and proceed south along Underhill. So far so good.

The problem of the morning commute, continues because instead of hopping across Underhill, I *could* consider riding south along the Urban Trail (east side) which would bring me to the intersection of Eastlake and Underhill.

See option A-3. Here I could cross Eastlake but must then must wait on the south/east corner of Eastlake/Underhill and take a chance to cross to the west side of Underhill. In my opinion this is never a wise choice but in the dark and rain, potentially lethal. Myself, I never select this option simply because drivers coming up (going north) Underhill are going too fast and with the volume of traffic are not prepared to stop for a cyclist or pedestrian, and drivers proceeding west along Eastlake to Underhill, stopping is generally optional for vehicles. I have noted some brave pedestrians crossing here (southeast corner of Underhill and Eastlake). but I feel it's simply too dangerous in the morning or evening.

I could consider leaving my house on Forest Grove Drive and going east along Forest Grove to Underhill where I meet a three way stop. Here I can turn left and proceed down Underhill going south. But this choice is also fraught with danger for me as its quite dangerous to wait in the traffic at Underhill and Broadway for the light to change. There is no bike crossing button for me to push so I must sit in the inside lane wait for the lights to turn or a car to come behind me. This is the A-2 option noted on my map. Even if there was a bike crossing button it would mean I would need to be in the right hand lane (Underhill/Broadway) and that too is not a good option as cars use this lane to turn right and don't want a bike near them. Even if I were to sit in the outside lane and travel south on Underhill, there is also the issue of cars traveling along Broadway going east and wanting to turn south on Underhill. Not every driver waits for the signal to turn right.

The challenge of the evening commute. The issue of getting through the Eastlake/Underhill intersection during the evening commute is also interesting. As I proceed along Enterprise going east I turn left at Underhill. I proceed north on Underhill but then there is the notorious Eastlake/Underhill intersection to contend with. The A-3 option. When cars are going west along Eastlake, two lanes of cars are typically in a not quite moving position at the stop sign. The outside lane is meant to be used to turn left and the inside turn right. The challenge again is: the cars are in a hurry and fail to slow much if they don't have to. They gun it to make a right left turn if they see a break in traffic and go south down Underhill. The car on the outside lane cannot always see, quite literally through the car on their left and thus they may not see me. Then there is the issue of the cars proceeding south on Underhill intending to turn east (left) onto Eastlake. It's quite literally and often a heart stopping intersection in the evenings, Friday is particularly bad and I have had a few near misses in this intersection. When the days are dark and rainy, I proceed very, very slowly through here attempting to make eye contact with drivers if possible.

I would appreciate it if you would take the time to evaluate this corridor and consider some changes that would

benefit those individuals, like me that ride their bike daily in this area. It would be a shame to see a serious injury or worse to anyone.

Thank you

Cathy Griffin

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Burnaby, B.C.

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Attachment: hand drawn map of area, not to scale.