



Feb 27, 2017

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

SECTION 2 COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE (2017.03.02)  
Planning and Development Committee (2017.03.28)  
City Manager  
Dir. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
Dir. Planning  
Dir. Engineering

RE: Council Report 62500-01 Willingdon Linear Park Design and Public Consultation Results

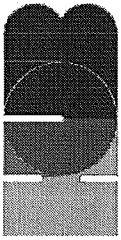
Dear Mayor and Council,

Thank you for sending the subject report in response to our November 7, 2016, presentation to you regarding cycling facilities on Willingdon Avenue and the design of the proposed Willingdon Linear Park. At the November 7, 2016, meeting Council made and passed the following motion:

That staff prepare a report responding to the comments and issues raised by the (HUB Burnaby) delegation, and that a copy of the report be provided to the delegation for information.

We are disappointed that the staff report does not respond to the issues that we raised, nor does it acknowledge Council's motion on the subject. The report only states that "The provision of commuter cycling infrastructure was not a program element identified in the vision for the project." The report does not address or acknowledge the questions about the linear park plan's failure to address the following key issues raised in our presentation and November 1st letter to Council (Re: Walking and Cycling Facilities on the Willingdon Greenway):

- A significant objective of Burnaby's official Transportation Plan is to encourage the use of cycling as a mode of transportation.
- Since 1995 Willingdon Avenue has been identified in the Burnaby Transportation Plan as a commuter cycling route, to be built at such time as when adjacent development takes place.
- Burnaby's planners associated with the Brentwood Town Centre redevelopment have presented cycling as well as walking and transit as the preferred modes for new residents to access services in North Burnaby but infrastructure to support this is not evident in this proposal.
- Integration of the one-way walking and cycling facilities at Brentwood Town Centre with the two-way multi-use shared path along the East side of Willingdon Avenue.
- Burnaby's newly adopted Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS) includes the goal to "make walking and cycling easier, safer and more comfortable" and recommends that Burnaby "investigate opportunities to expand and improve pedestrian and cycling routes and infrastructure (routes, separated paths, bike facilities), especially north-south connections."



- Burnaby's Social Sustainability Strategy recommends looking for opportunities to facilitate and promote cycling as a healthy, affordable and sustainable way of getting around Burnaby and consulting with cycling focused organizations to utilize their expertise.
- Recent local research at UBC has identified shared paths as among the most hazardous types of infrastructure for cycling, and major streets with no cycling facilities as among the most uncomfortable.

The report states it will discuss the outcome of public consultation but does not mention that by far the most frequent concern expressed by respondents about the current proposal is the safety and suitability of the proposed shared path.

We ask that if Burnaby is amending its adopted long range plans and policies that the reasons for the changes be stated, that alternative means of achieving established goals be identified and that this be done in consultation with the citizens of Burnaby and interested local organizations. Proceeding with the current proposal without concurrently identifying safe and comfortable alternatives for transportation cycling would leave Burnaby's citizens with among the poorest facilities on which to actively transport themselves to destinations along the Willingdon corridor. We believe this project represents a missed opportunity to make significant progress towards Burnaby's long term strategic goals of making walking and cycling safe, comfortable, and convenient for people of all ages and abilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cathy Griffin', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Cathy Griffin

Acting Chair

HUB Burnaby

burnaby@bikehub.ca