

June 18th, 2019

Traffic Safety Committee
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, B.C.,
V5G 1M2

Dear Committee Members,

I am, for the third time, writing to bring to your attention the dangerous road conditions in my neighborhood for both cyclist and pedestrians.

My issues are:

1. Greatly increased motor vehicle traffic in the area of Eastlake and Underhill. Very large dump trucks working on the Transmountain Gas Pipeline, and many large pick up trucks, gas trucks, and motor vehicles all day long. This issue has nothing to do with the Fortis pipeline expansion occurring for the last few months. It is the issue of cars and trucks avoiding Lougheed and the large numbers of commercial buildings built in this area in the last few years. As a result there is an increase in motor vehicles and pedestrian traffic in the Underhill/Enterprise and Underhill/Eastlake areas.
2. Every morning, I ride from Forest Grove Drive, south, down Underhill to Broadway. As I wait for the light to turn green at this T intersection, I am sandwiched between motor vehicle traffic behind and beside me. There is no safe cycling infrastructure in this area. The Burnaby Mountain Urban Trail in this area is poorly maintained, at best and not close to being a useful route I would take to work.

In addition, as I ride south down the Underhill/Broadway intersection. there are pedestrians walking on the west side of Underhill going both north and south, on the road swerving between motor vehicles, myself, parked cars and a bit of a grassy verge. There is poor to limited pedestrian sidewalks on the west side of Underhill from Broadway to Enterprise.

3. The Lake City Skytrain station is extremely busy in the morning and every afternoon. Pedestrians cut across the street from the Skytrain station, generally going in a west to east direction. The truck and cars barreling down Lake City do not operate at a minimum speed. Fully loaded trailers and large trucks roll down at excess speed. There is no light to warn drivers pedestrians are walking back and forth between the Skytrain station and the gas station. This is a dangerous roadway and I have noted numerous near misses between cars and between cars/trucks and pedestrians.
4. Coming home each evening, as I cross Lougheed Highway at Lake City the Skytrain station has no signage and no markings anywhere inform pedestrians cyclists are coming. And they are coming, swerving around and between pedestrians.

5. Continuing on past the Skytrain station, I ride west on Enterprise Street (past Global TV) to Underhill. I stop at the T junction that is Enterprise and Underhill. At this stop sign, it is unbelievably difficult to see north (up Underhill) or down (south to Lougheed) as cars park very close to the end of the corner of the road. I have to walk/ride out at least 12 feet into the intersection to see if it is clear for me to turn left (north). I reiterate, there is absolutely no safe riding facility to turn north onto Underhill. Winters are the worst when I ride, with poor lighting in this area, and cars and trucks travelling at more than the posted speed, up and down between Eastlake and Lougheed going south and north. It's a giant racetrack.

As I move through this intersection and turn north on Underhill there is no safe portion of the road to ride on. Trucks and cars are roaring up Underhill as they come off Lougheed. As I get closer to the Eastlake and Underhill intersection there is no safe place for me and my bike. On my left are moving cars, on my right are parked cars or cars waiting to turn right. I have a small little grassy/cement corner I can hop up to when I feel really threatened by the traffic. It is a very messy and very dangerous intersection at the best of times. In the evenings and when it rains, its worse. With no pedestrian crossing to alert drivers they should stop and allow others to access the intersection, it's just a race to get through each evening.

I would like to see:

1. Pedestrian lights for crossing at three way stop at Underhill and Eastlake.
2. Pedestrian crossing with lights at Lake City Way and Enterprise.
3. Vehicles not permitted to park within about 10 meters on the west side of Underhill and Enterprise to allow for greater visibility when anyone, including a cyclist turning left, or right at this corner.
4. Improved cycling signage on poles and markings in and around the Lake City Skytrain, along Enterprise, and on both sides of Underhill.
5. Improved cycling infrastructure in and around the Lake City Skytrain, along Enterprise, and on both sides of Underhill.

All these scenarios I am describing are unbelievably unsafe. Do I need to feel I will be killed or severely injured by a motor vehicle because there is no safe cycling infrastructure in this area? Do pedestrians need to feel they must walk on the road because sidewalks are non-existent? Yet I know I am not the only non-motor vehicle, or pedestrian going in and around these intersections all day long.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Cathy Griffin