

**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 2020 May 20

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

**FILE:** 90400 01  
*Reference:* Cycling

**SUBJECT:** 2020 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

**PURPOSE:** To request funding in support of programs that promote active transportation in 2020.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** Council be requested to authorize the expenditure of \$17,050 from the Boards, Committees and Commissions budget for programs that promote active transportation in 2020, as outlined in this report.

**REPORT****1.0 BACKGROUND**

Burnaby has a rich history of encouraging walking and cycling initiatives as important aspects of the City's efforts aimed at providing greater access and choice for its residents. In 1998, the City introduced a Cycling Promotion Program to support cycling initiatives which would complement the expansion and improvement of cycling infrastructure across the City. In 2017, this evolved into the Cycling and Walking Program with the inclusion of walking initiatives focused on supporting healthier, more active lifestyles for Burnaby residents.

This year, in alignment with the next phase of Burnaby's *Transportation Plan* update, the program is broadening again to become the "Active Transportation Program", to facilitate the inclusion of many new forms of human-powered mobility beyond walking and cycling. Active Transportation is more inclusive and includes rolling using a skateboard, in-line skates, scooters, wheelchair, or other wheel-based forms of human-powered transportation.

Through these programs, Council has funded a number of initiatives to promote cycling and walking, both through City efforts and by supporting the work of others. In 2019, this included:

- The Burnaby Bike Map;
- Bike to Work Week;
- Bike to School Program;
- StreetWise Cycling Courses;
- Community Cycling Initiatives;

- Burnaby Walking Maps – Metrotown; and,
- Walking Initiatives.

The Burnaby Bike and Walking Maps are published annually by the City. The other programs listed above are offered by the non-profit group, HUB Cycling, and local community groups. Through support of external programs, the City contributes to community-based initiatives which support both cycling and walking and also receives sponsorship recognition as part of event advertising. The Program contributes to broader community and individual benefits, such as improved fitness, less pollution, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Available data from the last ten years indicates we have achieved much including:



90,000+ cycling and walking maps printed and distributed



Hundreds of cycling courses delivered across the city



Over 560,000km of cycling supported



Over 118 tonnes of GHG emissions avoided

This report also provides an overview of active transportation infrastructure constructed by the City in the last year.

## 2.0 POLICY

The 2020 Active Transportation Program is aligned with the City's *Corporate Strategic Plan* by supporting the following goals and sub-goals of the *Plan*:

- A Safe Community
  - Transportation safety –  
Make City streets, pathways, trails and sidewalks safer
- A Connected Community
  - Geographic connection –  
Ensure that people can move easily through all areas of Burnaby, using any form of transportation
- An Inclusive Community
  - Serve a diverse community –  
Ensure City services fully meet the needs of our dynamic community
- A Healthy Community
  - Healthy life –  
Encourages opportunities for healthy living and well-being

- Healthy environment –  
Enhance our environmental health, resilience and sustainability

The City's three Sustainability Strategies all identify the provision of transportation choices and promotion of alternative modes as key strategic transportation goals for Burnaby. The Council-adopted Vision, Themes and Goals guiding the update of Burnaby's *Transportation Plan* place continued emphasis on supporting travel choices that are enjoyable and supportive of our quality of life, and offer "*accessible and safe mobility in support of a healthy, green, prosperous and connected community.*" Council's declaration of a climate emergency, and commitment to reducing carbon emissions further emphasizes the need for accelerating adoption of active transportation as a primary mode of travel within the city.

### **3.0 CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE**

The City continues to construct the infrastructure required to encourage active mobility for its citizens through various capital and development programs. In 2019, a total of 5.7 km of such improvements were built throughout the city, including 4.0 km of new sidewalks and 1.7 km of new or improved bike routes.

Bike route works included the Kensington Urban Trail connecting the Central Valley Greenway with the Deer Lake Precinct, portions of the Fraser Foreshore Trail, and enhancements to the Trans Canada Trail in North Burnaby. Sidewalk construction typically consisted of shorter projects scattered throughout the city. Bike route and sidewalk construction for 2019 is illustrated in *Figure 1*.

In 2020, apart from the regular sidewalk program, multi-use paths are planned for Gilmore Diversion over Highway 1, and beside Deer Lake Avenue.

### **4.0 PROPOSED 2020 PROGRAM**

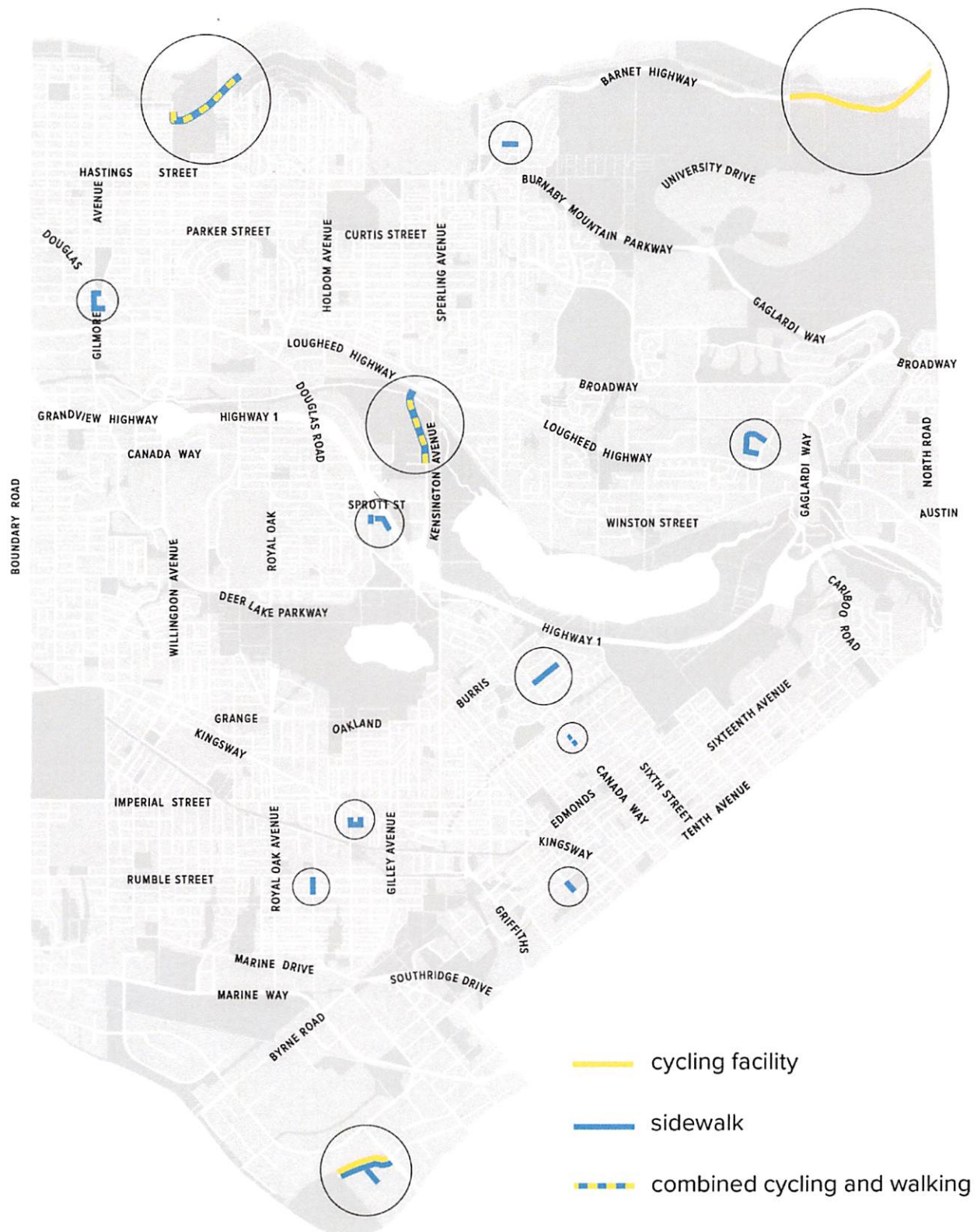
This year it is proposed that the program be expanded to include an Active School Travel initiative, beginning with a pilot for the 2020/2021 school year.

The delivery of some initiatives will be affected by the current pandemic, and physical distancing requirements that are likely to evolve over the course of the year. Staff propose that City support be continued for initiatives that are substantially consistent with the descriptions in this report, even if some adaptation is required. Support would not be provided for any events that are cancelled. The recommended 2020 expenditure is thus an upset limit, with actual expenditures depending on conditions that are not yet known.

The proposed 2020 Active Transportation Program has ten components, as discussed below.

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### Figure 1: Sidewalk and Bike Route Construction in 2019





## 4.1 Burnaby Bike Map

The Burnaby Bike Map provides essential and current information needed to navigate the City by bicycle. Each year, staff update the Bike Map to include newly-constructed routes. Printed copies are available to the public free-of-charge at City facilities including community and recreational centres, libraries, and City Hall. The map is also available on the City's website (Burnaby.ca/bikemap).

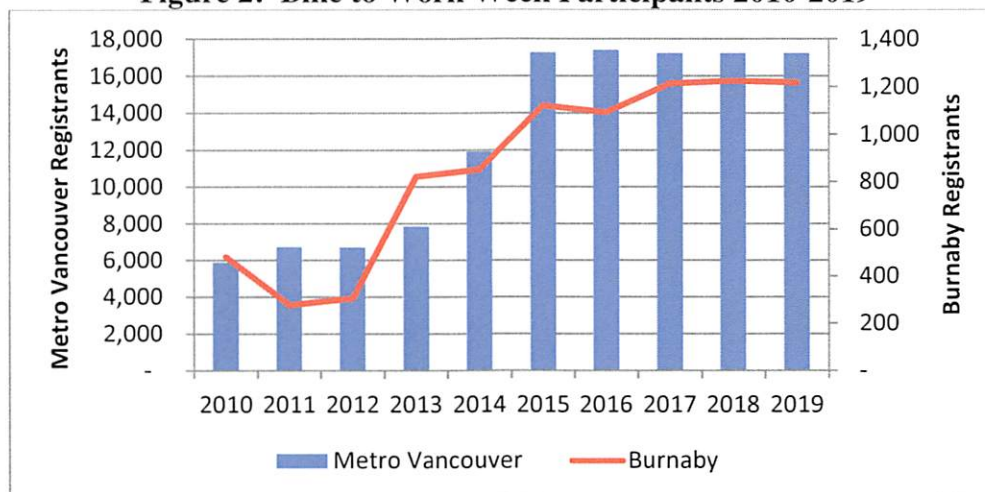
Despite the opportunity to access the Bike Map online, demand for the printed version (available at civic facilities and events) has remained high. However, with an anticipated decrease in trips to civic facilities and events due to the pandemic, it is recommended that a print run of 4,000 copies (half the usual) be prepared in 2020, at a cost of \$1,400.

## 4.2 Bike to Work Week

Bike to Work Week is an event organised by the non-profit group, HUB Cycling, to promote cycling and encourage people to commute by bicycle. Held twice a year, in the spring and fall, the week-long events promote cycling through a program that combines incentives, workplace camaraderie, healthy living and environmental responsibility. Pop-up Commuter Stations provide information on routes, free food and beverages, prize draws, and free bike mechanic services. Participants are entered in daily and grand prize draws, and organizations that log the most trips are recognized with Workplace Awards.

Burnaby's participation in Bike to Work Week has seen steady growth over the last decade (*Figure 2*), mirroring the regional continued pattern of growth. Collectively, Burnaby participants logged 6,400 cycle trips for a total of 71,000 kilometres and in doing so, avoided the emission of 15.4 tonnes of greenhouse gases.

**Figure 2: Bike to Work Week Participants 2010-2019**



HUB Cycling, through its partnership with other organizations, was able to leverage the funding to provide seven Commuter Stations in Burnaby. HUB and City staff were in attendance at the

stations to promote cycling in Burnaby and to engage with some of the 600+ riders that stopped at the stations (*Figure 3*).

**Figure 3: Burnaby Commuter Station (Gilmore at CVG)**



Arising from the pandemic, in lieu of Commuter Stations and large celebrations for the spring event, HUB is proposing support of a digital ‘Go By Bike Week’ campaign aimed at encouraging people to cycle safely, support mental health and wellbeing, and support local communities. The campaign will include a series of events both on and offline, with daily prize give-aways and contests aimed at promoting cycling as a healthy means of transportation during these times.

The Fall Bike to Work event is scheduled for October, with programming currently anticipated to be similar to previous years.

In 2019, the City provided sponsorship of \$4,200 for Bike to Work Week, which supported two Commuter Stations and detailed data collection. This year, in recognition of the pandemic, HUB Cycling is proposing a digital cycling promotion campaign plan to replace the spring event, and a regular event in the fall with two Commuter Stations and detailed data collection in Burnaby, in return for a City contribution of \$4,000. Staff recommend that the City provide sponsorship of \$4,000 to cover the cost of providing these services.

#### **4.3 Bike to School Programming**

HUB Cycling also organizes a Bike to School program (*Figure 4*) that enables and encourages thousands of Metro Vancouver youth annually to see cycling as a safe and enjoyable mode of transportation in their community. Through in-class and on-bike instruction, students learn the rules and responsibilities of riding on city streets and bike paths, and get hands-on practice with fundamental cycling skills on school-grounds and local neighbourhood streets. HUB’s fleet of bikes includes a range of specialized adaptive bikes which are available to children with physical and cognitive differences to help achieve 100% participation.



Last year, the City's sponsorship supported training for four classes of Grade 3 to 5 students. HUB Cycling, through its partnership with other organizations, was also able to deliver additional courses to five classes of Grades 3 – 5 students and four classes of Grades 5 – 7 students.

**Figure 4: Bike Road Skills Training**



In order to offer this program again in 2020, HUB Cycling requests a contribution of \$2,750 from the City of Burnaby. HUB Cycling will also be liaising with the School District to seek their support for the event, scheduled for the fall. Building on the success of previous years, staff recommend that the City offer \$2,750 in support of this program in 2020.

#### **4.4 StreetWise Cycling Courses**

Cycling can be an important mode of transportation for newcomers, some of whom may find car ownership or transit fares a financial burden. HUB Cycling's StreetWise Cycling Courses (**Figure 5**) provides would-be cyclists, primarily adults, with the skills to feel safe and comfortable riding in traffic. The courses are free to participants so that cost is not a barrier to participation.

The City provided sponsorship for one specialized immigrant-focused course in 2019 at a cost of \$2,800. The course was delivered by HUB Cycling in partnership with the Edmonds & Windsor Neighbourhood Resource, and reached 11 participants.

The course, which combines classroom and on-road training, is taught by certified cycling trainers. Results have shown that rates of cycling increase dramatically and consistently after attending one of these courses, as do confidence levels.



**Figure 5: Streetwise Cycling Course – Immigrant Learn to Ride Course**



For 2020, HUB Cycling is proposing to hold one course for 24 participants in Burnaby, delivered in partnership with Burnaby-based immigrant service organizations, in return for continuing City support of \$2,800. Staff recommend that the City offer \$2,800 for this program in 2020.

#### **4.5 Community Cycling Initiatives**

Since 2012, staff have supported the efforts of local community organizations advancing cycling initiatives in Burnaby. In June 2019, staff supported Community Bike Fairs at Gilmore and Second Street Community Schools (**Figure 6**), through the provision of materials and promotion of the events through City social media channels and the Community Events Calendar.

**Figure 6: Community Bike Fair at Second Street Community School**



In 2020, staff recommend continued support of these initiatives through provision of relevant information and data as required, in-kind goods, and promotion.



#### **4.6 Active and Safe Routes to School (Pilot Project)**

In order to accelerate the adoption of active transportation as a primary mode of travel within the City, it is proposed that a new pilot be undertaken in conjunction with School District 41. Working with one school, the pilot will utilize the *Active and Safe Routes to School Toolkit*, an online resource, to determine which activities are best suited to the school community's needs with programming designed to help encourage more active trips to school. Staff would facilitate the delivery of the program by a Community School Coordinator, potentially at Gilmore Community School, with grant funding providing for the materials, activities and support.

Staff recommend that the City provide a grant of \$1,500 to cover the cost of undertaking the pilot consisting of a focused activity designed to encourage more active school trips.

#### **4.7 Workplace Cycling Workshop**

In conjunction with the City's Green Team and the Burnaby Library, the City has facilitated workplace cycling workshops for staff since 2017. The workshops, delivered by certified cycling trainers through HUB Cycling, include interactive lunch n' learn sessions aimed at encouraging staff to try cycling to work in advance of Bike to Work Week, and information on topics such as beginner bike maintenance, commuting skills, and fall and winter cycling. Staff recommend continued support of this initiative with funding of \$600 to cover the cost of providing one workshop in advance of the fall Bike to Work Week. The usual spring workshop would be cancelled due to the pandemic.

#### **4.8 Burnaby Walking Maps**

Since 1998, one of the means of advancing the City's goal of promoting alternative modes of transportation has been the production and distribution of the Burnaby Bike Map. Building on the reach and success of the Bike Map, and the continued enhancement of the public realm within our town centres, staff have been developing neighbourhood walking maps. These maps aim to engage and support citizens in the pursuit of healthier, more active lifestyles. They also help to encourage visitors to explore the City on foot and thus support local tourism.

The first Burnaby Walking Map, focusing on Metrotown, was produced in 2018 (*Figure 7*). With Council's declaration of a climate emergency and more people discovering their neighbourhoods during the pandemic, it is recommended that this initiative be expanded to include the other three Town Centres. Made available online, with printed copies distributed to City facilities, the maps have been well received by the public. Given the success of the initial print run of the map, staff recommend the development, production and distribution of 2,000 walking maps per Town Centre at a total cost of \$4,000.

#### **4.9 Walking Challenge**

The Burnaby Healthier Community Partnership (HCP) is a partnership of the City of Burnaby, Burnaby School District 41, Fraser Health, and the Burnaby Division of Family Practice. A similar partnership exists in New Westminster. Working in collaboration with the New West Walkers Caucus, a five-week "Walk30" challenge was hosted in each community in both 2018 and 2019

(Figure 8). Participants were encouraged to walk 30 minutes each day for the duration of the challenge. Through this initiative, participants in 2019 logged over 1 million minutes of walking for an average of 40 minutes a day per person.

Figure 7: Metrotown Walking Map

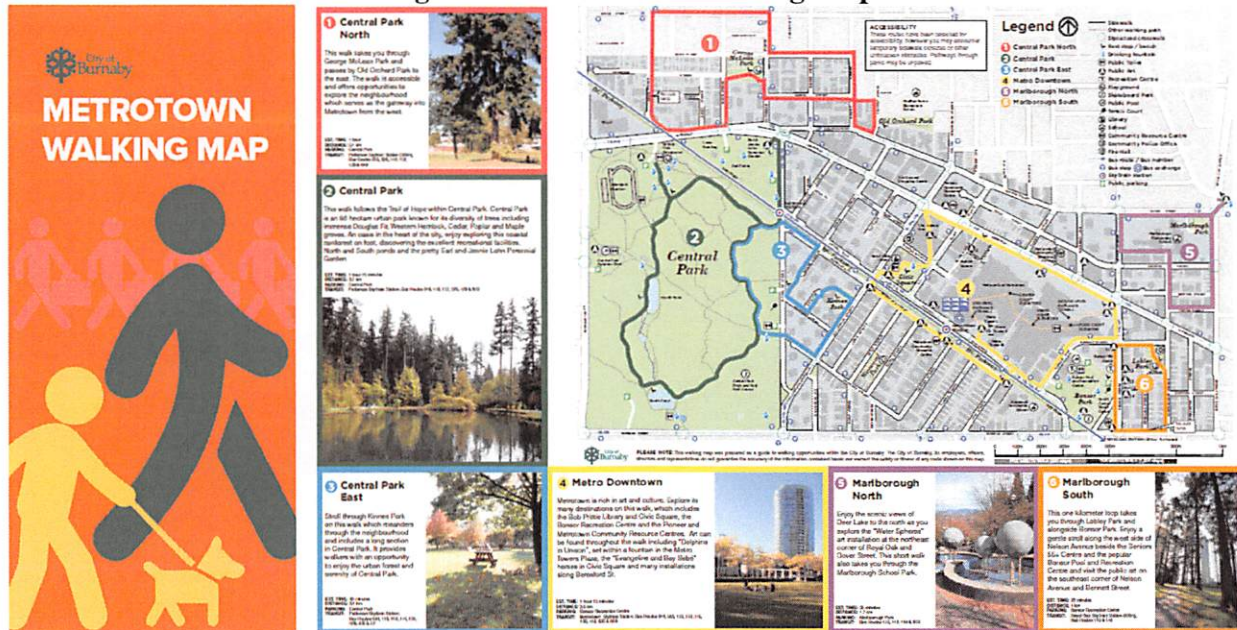
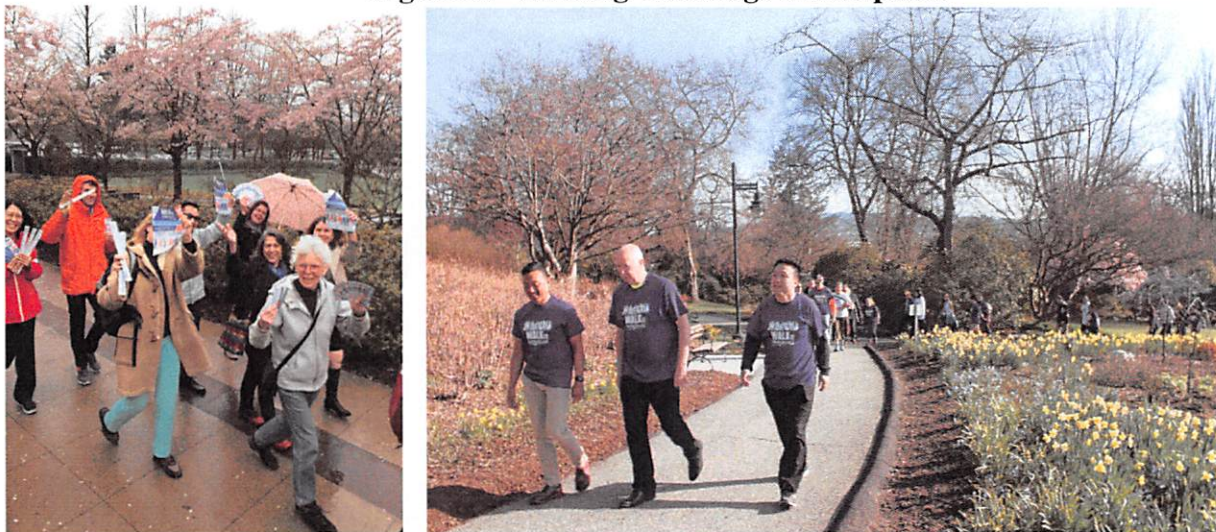


Figure 8: Walking Challenge Participants



In 2019, the challenge also included a “Feet on the Street” forum hosted by the Burnaby Neighbourhood House on May 30, 2019. Participants were able to hear a key note speaker, take part in a guided walk, and attend breakout workshops focused on urban design, walking advocacy, and health, while enjoying a meal with community members interested in promoting walking.

In 2020, the HCPs will partner with Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST) to deliver the Walk30 challenge in both cities, focusing on active transportation, and promoting



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walking as a primary mode of travel for all purposes. While the spring event has been postponed due to the pandemic, staff recommend continued support of this initiative with staff time.

#### 4.10 Jane's Walk

Held globally, Jane's Walk is a movement of free, citizen-led walking tours inspired by author and activist Jane Jacobs. The walks are aimed at engaging citizens in story-telling about their communities, whilst exploring their cities and connecting with neighbours.

Since 2015, staff have facilitated these citizen-led walking tours in Burnaby by hosting a web page where walk leaders could list their events. Staff recommend continued support of this initiative.

### 5.0 CONCLUSION

The Burnaby Bike Map, Bike to Work Week, Bike to School Program, StreetWise Cycling Courses, and local community cycling initiatives such as Community Bike Fairs are well-established means for encouraging greater travel by bicycle. The walking initiatives such as Jane's Walk, walking maps and the Walking Challenge continues to raise the profile of walking in the community and that of organizations, such as the City, that support active transportation. This report recommends the expenditure of \$17,050 to promote Active Transportation in Burnaby in 2020, as follows:

- Burnaby Bike Map, \$1,400;
- Bike to Work Week, \$4,000;
- Bike to School Programming, \$2,750;
- StreetWise Cycling Courses, \$2,800;
- Active and Safe Routes to School Pilot, \$1,500,
- Workplace Cycle Workshop, \$600, and,
- Burnaby Walking Maps, \$4,000.

In keeping with our past cycling and walking promotion expenditures, it is recommended that Council be requested to authorize the expenditure of \$17,050 from the Boards, Committees and Commissions budget for this year's Active Transportation Program, as outlined in this report. For those services contracted to HUB Cycling, HUB will invoice the City for actual services undertaken within the envelope identified above.

  
E.W. Kozak, Director  
PLANNING AND BUILDING

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cc: City Manager  
Director Public Safety and Community Services  
City Clerk

Director Engineering  
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services