



CYCLING

From: Richard Littlemore <richardlittlemore@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 1:38 PM
To: Clerks <Clerks@burnaby.ca>; Traffic <Traffic@burnaby.ca>
Subject: Slow Streets

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I am writing on behalf of Glotsman-Simpson Cycling, the largest road cycling club in the region, to bring to your attention our support for cycling infrastructure and for recent innovations that (in a post-COVID-19 world) make our streets safer for walking, cycling and rolling.

I attach a letter that we have sent to the City of Vancouver, thanking the City for expanding the network of so-called Slow Streets. But we also wanted to reach out to Burnaby staff and council. Many of our members live in Burnaby and many more ride through the municipality frequently. We are deeply appreciative of every gesture that makes that riding safer and more comfortable - to all.

Please know that you may count on our support in planning new active-transportation infrastructure and supporting its expansion.

Thank you,

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Richard Littlemore

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June 2, 2020

Mayor and Council

City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC
V5Y 1V4

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing on behalf of the more than 300 members of Glottman-Simpson Cycling – the largest recreational bicycling club in the region – to thank you for the Slow Street innovations that you have implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to encourage you to show more ambition in expanding and preserving this network for safe walking, cycling and rolling.

Our members, who include roughly 100 racers, 100 avid recreational road riders and another 100 cyclists well on their way to becoming avid, together ride many thousands of kilometres a month, in Vancouver and surrounding municipalities. Many of our number also use bicycles to commute, riding through dense traffic at the busiest times of day. Accordingly, we have benefited enormously from the City of Vancouver's development of cycling-friendly infrastructure. On behalf of all cyclists, from the wobbliest toddler to the hardest senior, we also thank you for those health and safety investments.

The COVID-19 pandemic, however, has presented a specific opportunity and an urgent need for more action. In the last few months, streets that were strangely absent of motor vehicles were suddenly crowded with walkers, rollers and cyclists taking health officials' advice to embrace outdoor exercise as one of the best defences against the coronavirus. The closure of Stanley Park to vehicular traffic and the adjustment along Beach Avenue were clearly necessary – merely to maintain a base level of safety. Those measures and others in the city and region were just as clearly appreciated by people of all ages and abilities, whether they were walking safely on the seawall or cycling on the street.

Now, as social restrictions are relaxed, temporarily quiet streets are once again crowding with cars. Yet many more pedestrians, including families with young children, and cyclists of every kind are still enjoying activities that are new to some, but healthy to all (as long as they don't get hit by a



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car!). With people still avoiding public transit, many more citizens may also choose to commute on foot or by bike – if they believe they can do so safely.

In response to these global trends, cities around the world – from Copenhagen to Calgary, from Berlin to Brampton – have closed streets, opened curb lanes, implemented shared streets and committed to building new bikeways. We rely, now, on your judgment, your sense of responsibility and your boldness in supporting, implementing and preserving these transportation alternatives. And we thank you again for what you have done already. A safer, healthier Vancouver hangs in the balance.

Sincerely,

Richard Littlemore