



SIMON FRASER
UNIVERSITY



Your Cycling Connection

20 February 2020

Traffic Safety Committee
Burnaby City Hall
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby BC V5G 1M2

RE: Improving Cycling Safety on Burnaby Mountain Roads

Dear Chair and Members of the Traffic Safety Committee:

We are writing to urge the committee to improve cycling safety on Burnaby Mountain Parkway and Gaglardi Way, the main roads to and from the Simon Fraser University (SFU) Burnaby campus (Figure 1). We have a large community of cyclist riding to SFU Burnaby, but fears for their safety keep them from cycling, or cycling more.

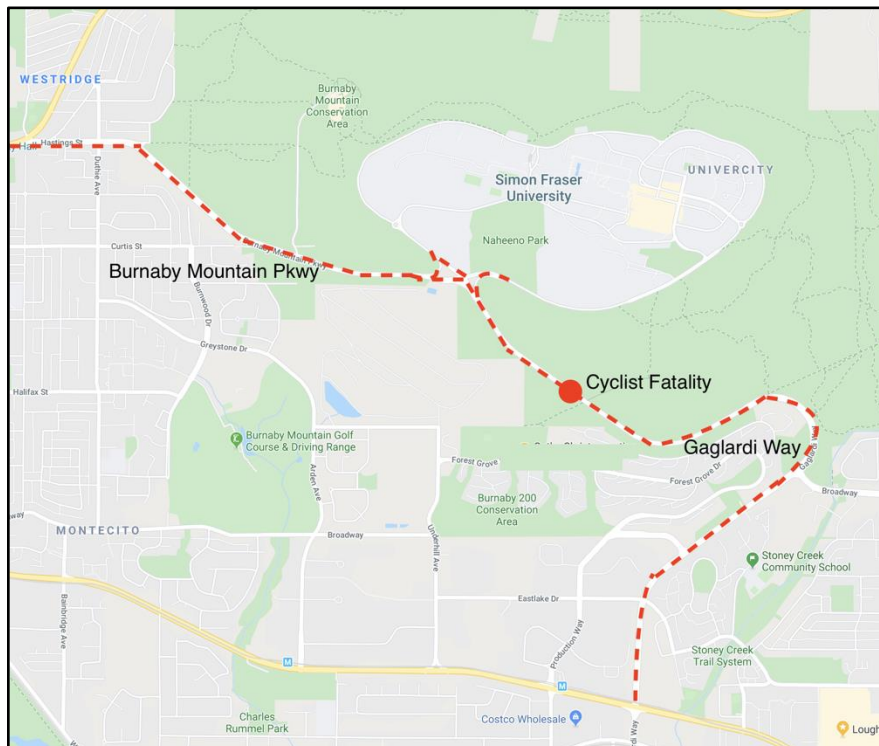


Figure 1. Map of Burnaby Mountain roads indicated for cycling safety improvements (dashed red lines) and the proximate location of the June 2019 cyclist fatality.

SFU MBC 1315, 8888 University Dr., Burnaby BC, V5A 1S6
HUB Cycling, 312 Main Street, Vancouver BC, V6A 2T2



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While most interactions between cyclists and motor vehicles don't result in a collision, time ran out for a cyclist on the 30th of June 2019. On this sunny Sunday afternoon, the bike lane could not stop an SUV driver from veering over the painted line and killing 52-year-old Charles Masala. Tragedies like this can be prevented with well-designed, high-safety cycling facilities.

The existing cycling infrastructure on both sides of Burnaby Mountain consists of narrow painted bike lanes which are often irregular in width and do not provide any protection from motor-vehicles in adjacent travel lanes. To improve cycling safety and comfort along Gaglardi Way and Burnaby Mountain Parkway, we recommend that the Traffic Safety Committee consider the following street design changes:

1. Upgrade the existing painted bike lanes to cycle tracks using a physical barrier between the cycling path and motor vehicle travel lane.
2. Design the cycle tracks wide enough to allow for comfortable passing.
3. Eliminate the high-speed conflict zones created by the right-turn slip lanes near the intersection at Burnaby Mountain Pkwy and Gaglardi Way (Figure 2).
4. Build a protected intersection for cyclists at Burnaby Mountain Pkwy-Gaglardi Way to reduce or eliminate turning conflicts with motor vehicles and facilitate easy two-stage left-turns and protected right-turns.
5. Rebuild the transition from the existing slip-lane bike path to support a 30 km/h design speed (Figures 3 and 4).
6. Establish as a condition of Traffic Management Plan (TMP) approval that contractors cannot place any construction-related signage in the bicycle through zone of the road.
7. Increase street sweeping frequency to reduce debris on cycling facilities.
8. Ensure the Burnaby Mountain cycling facilities have the same snow removal and de-icing priority as the parallel road for motor traffic (Priority 1-MRN).



Figure 2. Right-turn slip lanes near the Gaglardi Way and Burnaby Mountain Pkwy intersection allow high-speed motor vehicles (red lines) to weave across the painted bike lanes, creating conflicts with cyclists travelling straight through (green lines). Cyclists turning left from Burnaby Mountain Pkwy onto Gaglardi Way, a typical route for SFU commuters, experience additional conflicts as they weave across two vehicle lanes to align themselves for the left turn (yellow line).



Figures 3 and 4. A bike path (red line) along the Gaglardi-Burnaby Mountain slip lane ends suddenly, requiring downhill cyclists to stop and turn 90 degrees to merge into a narrow painted bike lane.



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We believe these changes are of highest importance and urgency to avoid further fatalities and serious injuries of community members who cycle to and from the SFU campus. In addition, these recommendations support the City's declaration of climate emergency by enabling more active transportation trips that can lead to reductions in transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions.

We look forward to working with staff and council to turn these recommendations into improvements on the ground.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sid Mehta".

Sid Mehta
Chair - Sustainable Mobility Advisory Committee- SFU

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Moreno Zanutto".

Moreno Zanutto
Co-Chair - HUB Cycling Burnaby Committee

Cc:

Mayor and Council, City of Burnaby

Leah Libsekal, Transportation Planner, City of Burnaby

Rex Hodgson, Transportation Planner, TransLink

Dave Ellenwood, Director Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services, City of Burnaby

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