COMMITTEE COVER REPORT

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

TO: *MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: VANCOUVER-SFU CYCLING CONNECTION PROJECT UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the report titled "Vancouver-SFU Cycling Connection Update" dated January 25, 2024, be received for information.

REPORT

The Transportation Committee, at its meeting held on January 25, 2024, received and adopted the *attached* report providing an update on the Vancouver-SFU Cycling Connection Project.

On behalf of the Transportation Committee,

Councillor R. Lee
Chair

Councillor D. Tetrault
Vice Chair

TO: TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

FROM: GENERAL MANAGER ENGINEERING

SUBJECT: **VANCOUVER-SFU CYCLING CONNECTION PROJECT UPDATE**

PURPOSE: To present an update on the Vancouver-SFU Cycling Connection Project.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report titled "Vancouver-SFU Cycling Connection Update" dated January 25, 2024, be received for information.

1.0 POLICY SECTION

The Vancouver-SFU Cycling Connection Project supports the City of Burnaby's Corporate Strategic Plan and goals for a safe, connected, healthy, and dynamic community. The project is also aligned with Council-adopted goals, policies, and targets within Burnaby's Transportation Plan and the City's Climate Action Framework that supports a sustainable, safe, and accessible transportation system.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Cycling is a convenient, comfortable, and sustainable transportation choice, which can also improve both physical health and mental well-being. The Burnaby Transportation Plan outlines the City's Priority Cycle Network that targets several major cycling corridors. The City is striving to develop a cycling network that is attractive, comfortable, and safe for cyclists of All Ages and Abilities (AAA), including children, young adults, seniors, and both new and experienced cyclists. As part of *Connecting Burnaby,* the Burnaby's Transportation Plan, the City's goal is to upgrade the priority cycling network to meet AAA standards by 2030.

The Vancouver-SFU Cycling Connection Project as detailed in *Attachment 1* is a primary east-west cycling route that consists of the Frances-Union Bikeway, Burnaby Mountain Parkway, and Gaglardi Way. As part of the City's Priority Cycle Network, it serves as an important cycling connection between Metro Vancouver's urban centres and key destinations across the region. The project aligns with TransLink's Transport 2050 Major Bikeway Network and is partially funded by the Infrastructure Canada's Active Transportation Fund.

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

3.1 Phase 1 Summary

Phase 1 of this project has been completed in Fall 2023. The initial scope involved an extensive data collection program that included vehicle and cycling volume counts, parking demand utilization, and traffic speed data. Site visits were also conducted by the project team to further understand current conditions and to identify existing issues, gaps, and potential opportunities for improvements. Phase 1 concluded with several public engagement activities including an online survey, three pop-up events, and direct communication through either phone calls or emails. Feedback from residents, cyclists, and key stakeholders in terms of usage and expectation of the project corridor was documented.

In summary, the existing cycling corridor consists of a combination of neighborhood bikeways (shared streets), painted bike lanes, and multi-use pathways. Many sections of the corridor are not consistent with AAA standards due to high traffic speeds and volumes, lack of physical protection, and/or challenging intersection crossings. Along the Frances-Union Bikeway, the community shared several safety concerns regarding traffic speed and volume, and intersection crossings. Similarly, along Burnaby Mountain Parkway and Gaglardi Way, the community's primary concern is safety and supports cycling facilities that create separation between vehicles and pedestrians.

3.2 Phase 2 (Current Status)

The project is currently in Phase 2 where conceptual designs are being developed based on the results of technical review, data collection, and community feedback gathered from Phase 1. Potential cycling improvements include safer cycling facilities that physically separate cyclists from pedestrian and vehicular traffic, intersection safety improvements for all road users, and several traffic and speed management measures to promote a more comfortable and safe cycling experience.

The preliminary conceptual designs will be shared with the community and key stakeholders through public engagements for feedback to help inform and confirm the final concept designs.

4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

During Phase 1, the project team connected with over eight hundred community members through several engagement activities that included an online survey, three pop-up events, and direct communication through either phone calls or emails. The project team also engaged directly with key stakeholder groups, including students and staff at Simon Fraser University, select residential blocks with high traffic volumes, and members of cycling advocacy groups. Participants during this round of engagement expressed a desire to cycle through safer and better connections along the project corridor.

For Phase 2, the preliminary concept designs will be shared with the community and stakeholder groups for further feedback. Engagement activities will include an online survey, interactive maps and renderings of proposed improvements, and pop-up events that will take place in February 2024.

5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Infrastructure Canada's Active Transportation Fund has approved $5,730,000 for this project, which was endorsed by Council in March 2023. Additional funding for this project has also been committed in the Engineering 5-year capital plan.

Respectfully submitted,

May Phang, P.Eng., General Manager Engineering

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Project Area Map

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

This report was prepared by Po Sun, M.Sc., ACIP, Transportation Planner, and Sam Tomkins, Transportation Planning Technician, and reviewed by Kathy Ho, P.Eng., PTOE, Senior Manager, Transportation, and Amy Choh, P.Eng., PMP, Director Engineering, Transportation.