

Considered at the June 24, 2021 Transportation Committee Meeting



May 12, 2021

Port Moody Transportation Committee
Attn. Jeff Moi

Mayor and Council
Port Moody City Hall
1000 Newport Drive
Port Moody, BC V3H 5C3
council@portmoody.ca

Re: Sasamat Greenway - Safe Active Transportation Corridor

We are writing to respectfully ask that Port Moody consider prioritizing the creation of a **Sasamat Greenway**, stretching from April Road to White Pine Beach. This active transportation route would integrate with existing facilities to link Port Moody's most popular parks – Rocky Point, Old Orchard, Belcarra Park and Sasamat Lake (see proposed route in Annex A).

As HUB Cycling's TriCities Local Committee, which convenes a group of local volunteers focused on improving cycling infrastructure in the community, we represent a diverse range of people who cycle: from daily commuters to recreational enthusiasts to families looking for convenient and active ways to get kids to school. We appreciate Council's priority to ensure the built environment and infrastructure allows for, and encourages, active living. We have identified the creation of a Sasamat Greenway as an opportunity for Port Moody to lead on environmental sustainability, while enhancing residents' quality of life and improving road safety.

During the summer of 2020, Port Moody residents heading towards Sasamat, White Pine Beach and other outdoor destinations experienced roads and parking lots jammed with cars, further worsening a problem that has existed for many years. The White Pine Beach parking area was often full by early morning, and the elimination of parking on Bedwell Bay Road reduced access to the west side of Sasamat Lake. People parked further away and walked into the parks on the road (see photo examples in Annex B). This created a dangerous situation for people driving, walking and cycling; wheelchair users; and especially parents with strollers. As Mayor Vagramov noted in the TriCity News in December 2020, this summer "highlighted the importance of the availability of parks and open space."

It is clear that an active transportation corridor that is comfortable for people of all ages and abilities is needed for this area. Currently there is no safe, comfortable way for people of all ages and abilities to cycle or walk to Sasamat Lake and Belcarra Park. The existing infrastructure from Old Orchard Park along Alderside to April Road provides a starting point, but only takes people walking and cycling halfway to the beach. A greenway from April Road to Sasamat Lake would encourage Port Moody residents to walk, run or cycle on a continuous and safe route.

HUB Cycling, 312 Main Street, Vancouver BC, V6A 2T2

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There are many possibilities for trail placement beside the road or through the forest. From the loco townsite, for example, a trail could follow Village Creek in the loco Lands Buffer Zone and the gas line right-of-way to provide a trail off roadways heading west to the White Pine Park entrance. Alternatively, with proper placement of bollards a safe and separated pathway could be created along one side of Bedwell Bay Road.

Neighbouring communities and Metro Vancouver Parks could be viable partners on this project with all communities benefiting from reduced car traffic, fewer emissions and safe active travel not only to the parks, but to the communities themselves.

The Sasamat Greenway concept aligns with HUB Cycling, Metro Vancouver and Port Moody's long-term priorities. A Sasamat Greenway is identified as a planned priority in Metro Vancouver's Regional Greenways 2050 plan (see Annex C); our HUB Cycling TriCities Local Committee places this route as one of the top five Tri-Cities "Map Gaps" (see Annex D); and a key goal in Port Moody's climate action plan is to double the percentage of trips taken using active transportation from 20% to 40% of trips by 2030. Our proposal is to accelerate these timelines and respond to current needs. Rather than waiting for 2030 or 2050, we would like to get started now.

It would be exciting to see this project come to fruition in our community. The HUB Cycling TriCities Local Committee would welcome the opportunity to provide further detail about the challenges and solutions for this route. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,

Andrew Hartline - Chair, Tri-Cities Local Committee, HUB Cycling email: tri-cities@bikehub.ca

Colleen MacDonald - Let's Go Biking letsgobiking.net email: colleenmacd@gmail.com

Leon Lebrun - Trails Society of BC email: trailsbc.ca

About HUB Cycling

HUB Cycling is a charitable not for profit organization that has spent over 22 years removing barriers to cycling in Metro Vancouver, while cultivating the health, environmental, and economic benefits that active transportation can bring. HUB has educated thousands of people, motivated thousands more, and championed improvements that [#UnGapTheMap](https://www.bikehub.ca/#UnGapTheMap) to create a connected cycling network. HUB Cycling's mission is to get more people cycling more often. HUB Cycling has close to 3,000 members and more than 45,000 direct supporters. HUB Cycling has 10 volunteer committees across Metro Vancouver that encourage cycling for all ages and abilities (AAA) in municipalities across Metro Vancouver. For more information, visit bikehub.ca.

Copies to be sent to:

City of Port Moody council@portmoody.ca

Village of Belcarra belcarra@belcarra.ca

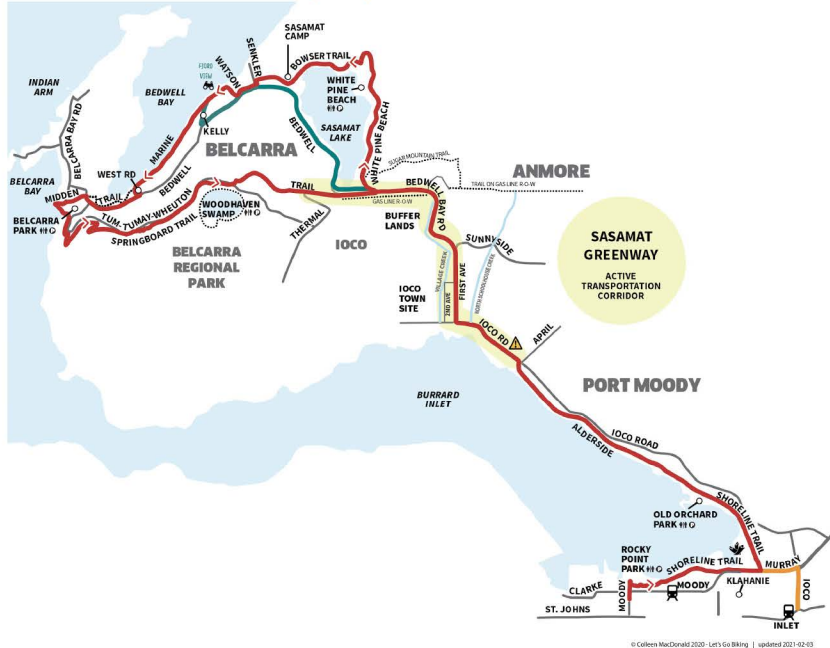
Village of Anmore village.hall@anmore.com

Metro Vancouver Regional Planning RegionalPlanning@metrovancover.org

Rick Glumac - MLA, Port Moody-Coquitlam Rick.Glumac.MLA@leg.bc.ca

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Annex A - Sasamat Greenway Proposed Route



Annex B - Photo examples of people walking using roadways to access White Pine Beach, Summer 2020



Lack of parking forces people to park further and walk on Bedwell Bay Road – Summer 2020



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Annex C - Metro Vancouver Regional Greenways 2050 Plan



Metro Vancouver Regional Greenways 2050 Plan November 18, 2020

Annex D - Map of Sasamat Greenway Priority

