

VANCOUVER AREA CYCLING COALITION

Box 0074, 641 Columbia Street
 New Westminster, B.C.
 V3M 1A8
 ph: 604-878-8222 fx: 604-648-8975

The Lower Mainland's Cycling Advocates

VACC – Vancouver

Date 2004-03-31

To the Mayor and Council

cc: Dave H. Rudberg, General Manager of Engineering Services
cc: Fred Lin

4th Ave Repavement and Bike Lanes Installation – N.W. Marine Drive to Blanca St.

The Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition (the VACC) wishes to recognize Staff's initiative in installing bike lanes along 4th Ave. from N.W. Marine Drive to Blanca St., as part of the repaving of this road in the coming months. With Staff's diligence in taking opportunities in road improvements to further the cycling infrastructure within the City, the cycling mode split should increase noticeably and provide its associated benefits to the environment, to health, to health care costs, and to the local retail business community.

Staff is only planning a single bike lane for the road stretch from Sasamat St. to Trimble St. up the hill in the westward direction. The VACC strongly recommends to Council that changes to the road use and width be made, as part of the repaving project, so that a downhill bike lane could also be installed.

The VACC also recommends to you that the bike lanes should not stop at N.W. Marine Road but be continued to Highbury St., as a minimum, or to Alma St. Considering that the curb lanes of this section of 4th Ave. are extremely wide and that it would only require continuing painting the bike lane lines, except for some minor intersection work at N.W. Marine Drive, it seems most reasonable and cost efficient to do this work at the time of repaving. 4th Ave. from Wallace St. to the N.W. Marine Drive is designated as the Seaside Path Bypass route. Bike lanes on this excessively fast driven stretch of road would assist cyclists using this route rather than the unlighted, gravelled Seaside Path through the park, on the way to or from the UBC lands.

Along with this roadwork activity, the VACC recommends that the section of Highbury St. from Point Grey Rd. to 8th Ave. be designated as a bike route. With the traffic light installation of a few months ago at 4th Ave. and Highbury St., this street now acts as a defacto bike route connecting the Seaside Path to the Off-Broadway Bike Route. Considering again that this street is very wide and now, with the traffic light, attracting more and faster moving vehicles cutting through the neighbourhood rather than staying on the major roads of 10th Ave, Broadway, and Alma St., it is desirable to calm this street and painting of bike lanes would help move towards this objective.

As with any new on-road cycling facilities, the VACC also supports the installation of directional, information, destination, information and warning signage as part of a bike lane or bike route implementation. The more obvious it is to drivers of motorized vehicles that cyclists are about, the more caution they will take, and the safer and more enticing it will be for people to take their bicycles for a commute, rather than their car. In the end, we all win with less pollution produced from private vehicles emission and a step closer towards the 'One Tonne Challenge'.

The VACC would be available at your convenience should you wish to discuss our recommendations and comments further.

Sincerely yours,



**Chair – The VACC – Vancouver Committee
Director and Treasurer – the Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition**

**H-JEH (Jack) Becker
Apartment 3303
1033 Marinaside Crescent
Vancouver, B.C.
Canada
V6Z 3A3
604-681-5744
hjihbecker@novus-tele.net**