



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Public Works and Transportation Committee

**Date:** January 12, 2024

**From:** Lloyd Bie, P.Eng.  
Director, Transportation

**File:** 10-6500-01/2024-Vol  
01

**Re:** 2024 Active Transportation Initiatives

### Staff Recommendation

That the report titled "2024 Active Transportation Initiatives" dated January 12, 2024 from the Director, Transportation, be received for information.

Lloyd Bie, P.Eng.  
Director, Transportation  
(604-276-4131)

Att.1

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
<b>ROUTED TO:</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>
Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Richmond RCMP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b> 	<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b> 

## Staff Report

### Origin

The City undertakes and supports a number of infrastructure projects, programs and ongoing activities to support active transportation (human-powered transportation) around Richmond. In addition to projects included in the capital budget, joint initiatives with the Richmond Active Transportation Committee and HUB Cycling are undertaken throughout the year to encourage walking, cycling and rolling trips in the City. The City also funds cycling skills education courses for all Grade 6 & 7 students and continues safety-related campaigns for personal mobility devices, such as e-scooters.

This report provides an overview of the active transportation initiatives planned for 2024 to support the improvement and promotion of the City's active transportation network. The report also highlights the 2023 active transportation accomplishments. Input and collaboration with the cycling community are integral to the delivery of these initiatives.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Strategy #2 Strategic and Sustainable Community Growth:

*2.4 Enhance Richmond's robust transportation network by balancing commercial, public, private, and active transportation needs.*

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Strategy #6 A Vibrant, Resilient and Active Community:

*6.1 Advance a variety of program, services, and community amenities to support diverse needs and interests and activate the community.*

### Analysis

As part of the planning and review of active transportation projects, staff meet monthly with the Richmond Active Transportation Committee (RATC) to seek input and feedback on infrastructure projects designed for cyclists, pedestrians and other micro-mobility devices. The committee also undertakes various activities in co-operation with the City to encourage, educate and raise awareness of active transportation. Committee members are local residents, employees and HUB Cycling representatives who reflect a diverse range of ages and cycling skills. RATC will be providing input and participating in the active transportation initiatives planned for 2024 as identified in this report.

### Planned 2024 Active Transportation Initiatives

Capital Projects - Active Transportation Network Expansion: Commence and continue design efforts and implementation of Council approved active transportation capital projects including:

- Complete construction of Phases 1 and 2 of the Steveston Highway Multi-Use Pathway (Shell Road to No. 2 Road). The project is scheduled for completion this year.

- Commence construction of the off-street multi-use pathway (MUP) on No. 2 Road (Steveston Highway to Williams Road). The project is anticipated for completion in 2024.
- Complete detailed design of Phase 3 of the Steveston Highway MUP (No. 2 Road to Railway Avenue). Construction is anticipated to commence this year.
- Complete design of neighborhood bikeways:
  - Midtown Neighbourhood Cycling Route - Improvements to signage, bike stencil painting and installation of improved, accessible concrete letdowns along 3.8 km of neighbourhood cycling route.
  - Alder Neighbourhood Cycling Route - Improvements to signage and bike stencil painting along 340 m of neighbourhood cycling route.
- Complete design of Great Canadian Way cycling protection enhancements: Protecting existing on-street cycling lanes between Bridgeport Road and River Road with delineators, improved line painting or concrete curbing.
- Complete design work of Gilbert Road Cycling Facilities: Design includes an off-street cycling facility and protection of existing bike lanes on Gilbert Road that will enhance safety and connectivity of cyclists from Granville Avenue to Dinsmore Bridge.

Active Transportation Network Spot Improvements: Review the active transportation system to identify spot locations for upgrades to enhance safety, accessibility and connectivity. Potential projects include localized improvements to existing on-street cycling facilities such as improved pavement markings (e.g., green painted bike lanes at conflict areas), additional signage, new ramps and installation of protective devices along on-street bike lanes to prevent motorists from parking or encroaching into parts of the bike lane.

Park, Road and Development Projects: Review additional City and external agency projects that impact existing or planned active transportation infrastructure as part of the overall project such as the Province's Fraser River Tunnel Project and through the development applications process.

Cycling Network Plan Update: The City's Cycling Network Plan (CNP) identifies cycling infrastructure priorities over 15 years (2022-2036). To advance the strategy, staff will identify cycling network upgrades as determined in the plan to prioritize future capital projects for Council consideration.

Bicycle-Pedestrian Counters: There are currently seven counters that record pedestrian and bicycle volume by direction on various facilities across the City. Further expansion of 10 new additional counters are planned for implementation on existing and new cycling facilities to allow for more comprehensive monitoring of the City's active transportation network.

Public Bicycle Parking: Research vendors and products for potential pilot projects that can showcase covered and secured bike parking facilities for public use. Staff anticipate bringing forward a report to Council with recommendations in Q3 2024 regarding the findings of this review.

Cost Share Grants and Awards: Continue to explore and apply for external grants related to active transportation projects.

E-Scooter Pilot Project: The City's E-Scooter Pilot Project began in July 2021. In December 2023, the Province announced that the Provincial Pilot Project is being extended for an additional four-year term. Participating Municipalities must pass a resolution authorizing the use of e-scooters on municipal streets in the extended pilot. Staff will bring forward a staff report for Council consideration in March 2024 regarding the e-scooter pilot project extension.

#### Promotion and Education of Active Transportation in 2024

Activities to encourage and promote active transportation as sustainable travel modes that also have significant health benefits are planned for 2024. RATC members and HUB Cycling will assist in the planning, promotion and staging of the following events in 2024:

- Bicycle Education for Students: Jointly with HUB Cycling and the Richmond School District, the City will facilitate the expansion of cycling education courses to all Grade 6 and 7 elementary school students over a two-year period. Students will learn the rules and responsibilities of riding on City streets and bike paths and receive hands-on practice with fundamental cycling skills on school grounds and local neighbourhood streets.

HUB's fleet of bikes includes a range of specialized adaptive bikes that are available to children with physical and cognitive differences to help achieve a goal of 100 per cent participation.

- Promotion of Active Transportation Network: Continue to participate in City events related to health and transportation to raise awareness of new active transportation facilities both locally and regionally. RATC will be engaged to help enhance active transportation information and resources on the City's website.
- Cycling Go by Bike Week (June and September/October): The June 2024 event of this region-wide annual initiative organized by HUB Cycling will be held from June 3 to June 9, 2024. People cycling log their daily bike trips for a chance to win prizes and to help support cycling in Metro Vancouver. Staff and the RATC will assist in the planning and promotion of this event, which will include celebration stations in the City.
- Bike to School Week (June): An annual celebration where students of all ages are encouraged to bike, roll or walk to school. The week-long event will take place from June 3 to June 7, 2024. Cycling and rolling trips are logged by schools with prizes drawn at the end of the week.
- Cycling Bike to Shop Week (August): HUB Cycling stages this annual event to encourage people to ride to and shop at local businesses. Bike to Shop is both a 'support local' and tourism campaign, designed to bring people directly to local stores as well as travel to new areas. In the past, the event in Richmond has been focused in Steveston and includes participating businesses that offer promotions and discounts to participants.

- 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual “Island City, by Bike” Tour: The bike tour of Richmond is tentatively set for Sunday, June 9, 2024. Both a long and short route will seek to feature recent improvements to the active transportation network. This event helps raise community awareness of the neighbourhood facilities that support sustainable travel options.
- Active Transportation Safety Initiatives: Implement education and outreach regarding cycling and pedestrian safety in the City, including updating information on the City’s social media platforms. Continue to support HUB Cycling activities including learn to ride and bike maintenance courses.

### 2023 Active Transportation Highlights

The City continued to expand and enhance the active transportation network in 2023. RATC was engaged in the planning and implementation of the projects highlighted below:

#### *Infrastructure Improvements*

- Delineators were installed along the existing bike lanes on Garden City Road between Granville Avenue and Sea Island Way. This completes the delineator project to protect the entire length of on-street cycling facilities between Granville Avenue and Railway Avenue to Garden City Road and Sea Island Way.
- Completion of the Westminster Highway Multi-Use Pathway (Smith Crescent to Fraserside Gate). Provision of protected cycling and walking facilities on the west side of Westminster Highway allows for safer travel and separation from vehicle traffic.
- Completion of the pedestrian walkway on the north side of Westminster Highway from Muir Drive to 150 metres east connecting to an existing pedestrian facility. The walkway extension enables more residents in the neighbourhood to walk to amenities and transit service along Westminster Highway.

#### *External Cost Share Grants*

The City was successful in securing a record amount of external grants in 2023 towards active transportation projects. Through working effectively with a number of external organizations, the City has been awarded approximately \$8.0 million in funding for Active Transportation projects from organizations including the Government of Canada, Province of BC and TransLink.

#### *Promotion and Education of Active Transportation*

- Bike to School Education for Students: In 2023, a total of 1,801 students from 18 elementary schools (Attachment 1) received hands-on practice with fundamental cycling skills on school grounds and local neighbourhood streets.
- Go by Bike Week (May/June and October 2023): Both the May/June and October 2023 events were held in person. Richmond had 354 participants. Collectively, Richmond participants logged 2,139 trips for a total distance of nearly 24,635 km.

- HUB Cycling Bike to Shop Week (August 1 to 31, 2023): The event in Richmond was focused in Steveston and included a celebration station at the Steveston Farmers Market on August 20, 2023 that offered promotions and discounts to participants.
- Cycling Education: HUB Cycling hosted learn to ride and bike maintenance courses in partnership with the City. Courses and online webinars totaled 100 attendees with 13 courses taught.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Island City, By Bike Tour Event (June 11, 2023): The event was held at Thompson Community Centre and two rides were organized: a short ride and long ride, highlighting recent cycling infrastructure improvements around the City. Over 120 participants turned out for the event.
- E-Scooter and E-Bike Share Pilot Project Highlights: Lime operates the City's shared e-bike and e-scooter pilot project. Since its launch in May 2022, residents and visitors have embraced this service with over 115,000 trips taken in Richmond. In partnership with HUB Cycling, Lime held recurring, in-person safety events to train riders to safely ride an e-scooter. Lime was a regular participant in supporting cycling and other City events to offer free trials and safe riding education on their devices. Lime had demonstration booths at the 2023 Public Works Open House (May 13, 2023) and at the Island City, by Bike Tour (June 11, 2023). Lime also implemented a new, connected helmet and lock system to enhance safety for riders. Helmets attach to brackets on each Lime vehicle when not in use which has increased the availability of helmets on these devices. A report to Council providing an update on the e-scooter pilot project is scheduled for March 2024.

### Financial Impact

None.

### Conclusion

The active transportation initiatives planned for 2024 will encourage greater and safer use of pedestrian and cycling modes in Richmond. Increasing walking and cycling trips is an effective means to improve social, economic and health outcomes in the community.

The Richmond Active Transportation Committee continues to participate and support the City's sustainable transportation objectives, which in turn will support progress towards meeting the City's target for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as well as the travel mode share targets of the City's Official Community Plan.

January 12, 2024

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As the Richmond School District is an essential partner in the delivery of cycling education courses for students, staff will forward the report to the Richmond Council-School Board Liaison Committee for information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sonali Hingorani".

Sonali Hingorani, P. Eng.  
Manager, Transportation Planning and New Mobility  
(604-276-4049)

SH:cas

Att. 1: 2023 Summary of Bike to School Education for Students

### 2023 Summary of Bike to School Education for Students

	School Name	Dates of Instruction	# of Classes	# of Students
1.	Jesse Wowk Elementary	April 3, 11, 12, 17, May 4	3	83
2.	Henry Anderson Elementary	April 14, 17, 19, 20, 24	4	107
3.	Samuel Brighthouse Elementary	April 21, 25, 28, May 1, 2	4	112
4.	Lord Byng Elementary	May 29, 30, June 7, 13	2	50
5.	James Thompson Elementary	May 30, 31, June 1, 2, 5	3	81
6.	RM Grauer Elementary	May 29, June 2, 7, 9, 12	3	76
7.	Garden City Elementary	June 5, 6, 7, 9, 12	3	83
8.	Westwind Elementary	June 6, 7, 8, 12, 16	4	114
9.	Howard DeBeck Elementary	June 12, 13, 14, 15, 16	4	115
10.	Blundell Elementary	September 18, 19, 21, 25, 26	3	82
11.	Dixon Elementary	September 26, 27, 28, 29, October 3	4	103
12.	R.C. Talmey Elementary	September 27, 28, October 3, 5, 10	3	78
13.	Mitchell Elementary	October 4, 5, 6, 10, 11	4	97
14.	Spul'u'kwuks Elementary	October 12, 13, 16, 17, 18	5	135
15.	James Gilmore Elementary	October 13, 16, 17, 18, 19	4	103
16.	Walter Lee Elementary	October 17, 18, 19, 24, 25	4	112
17.	James Whiteside Elementary	October 31, November 1, 3, 6, 7, 8	6	163
18.	Katherine McNeely Elementary	November 1, 2, 7, 8, 9	4	107
Total			67	1,801