

Comox Valley Cycling Coalition



Presentation to Courtenay City Council
April 12, 2023



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Who We Are...

Supporting Safe Cycling in the Comox Valley for 14 Years and Counting

Our Mission:

To encourage safe cycling as an economical, healthy and environmentally friendly mode of transportation.

Membership



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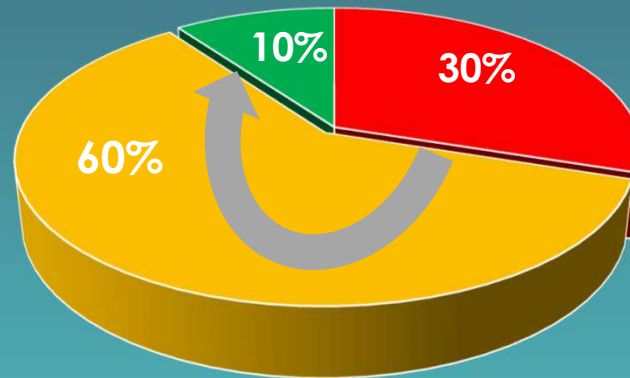
- 135 - 250 members
- Over 800 followers on Facebook and 300 on our email distribution list
- Member group of B.C. Cycling Coalition



Cycling Comfort Levels

Enthusiastic
and Confident

**Not
Interested**



**Interested,
but Hesitant**



**Our Primary Target Group – Use
Education and Infrastructure to
Increase Comfort**



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Focused on Our Priorities

1. **Education** – help cyclists to safely navigate existing infrastructure

- School Cycling Program (SD 71)
- Adult Education (Ride Right Program)

2. **Special Events/Networking**

- Bike Parking at major events

3. **Advocacy**

- Work with public, businesses, institutions and decision makers in all CV jurisdictions to assess needs and provide input on AT infrastructure improvements
- Comox Valley Cycle Route Maps

Education - Kids



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- We partner with CV SD71 to provide a two day cycling program to all 14 Elementary Schools in the Valley.
- We provide equipment, bikes, helmets, safety vests and a large contingent of volunteers (~1000 hours per year)





Education - Adults

“RIDE RIGHT” – Cycling Course



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- 4 hour course combines classroom session and a practical road ride with two instructors in a typical group of 2-6 students (only \$30)
- Gives riders first hand experience and confidence to ride on even the busiest roads in the Valley
- Can be tailored to e-bikes or other special group requests

<https://cyclecv.com/ride-right/>

RIDE RIGHT – Program Development



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- 2023 BCCC grant to develop a grass roots cycling education program with Cycling BC – to be used throughout the province
- Training 12 new instructors at a local course in April
- Now offering RIDE RIGHT course via Courtenay Recreation program
- Some amazing opportunities:
 - **E-Bike Training of 14 Nurses** (Campbell River S.U.I.T.)
 - Working with Immigrant Welcome Centre to develop a program for newcomers

2023 Mapping Project



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Grants in place from BCCC and CVRD to update our on-line interactive Comox Valley cycling maps:

- Working on ensuring Open Street Mapping is correct for cycling facilities (most apps other than Google use this as source)
- Planning on building a layered product showing overall route comfort rating plus other key items such as
 - Bike shops
 - Bike Parking
 - Cycle Network Plans





Wide Range of AT Users

- Diverse AT user groups – even if we just consider the cyclists:
 - School kids, commuters, recreational riders, e-bikes, and everything in between
- Huge range of cycling speeds, abilities and confidence levels

There is certainly **no "One Facility Fits All" solution** when designing infrastructure – **it is a complex challenge!**

17th St Bike Lanes

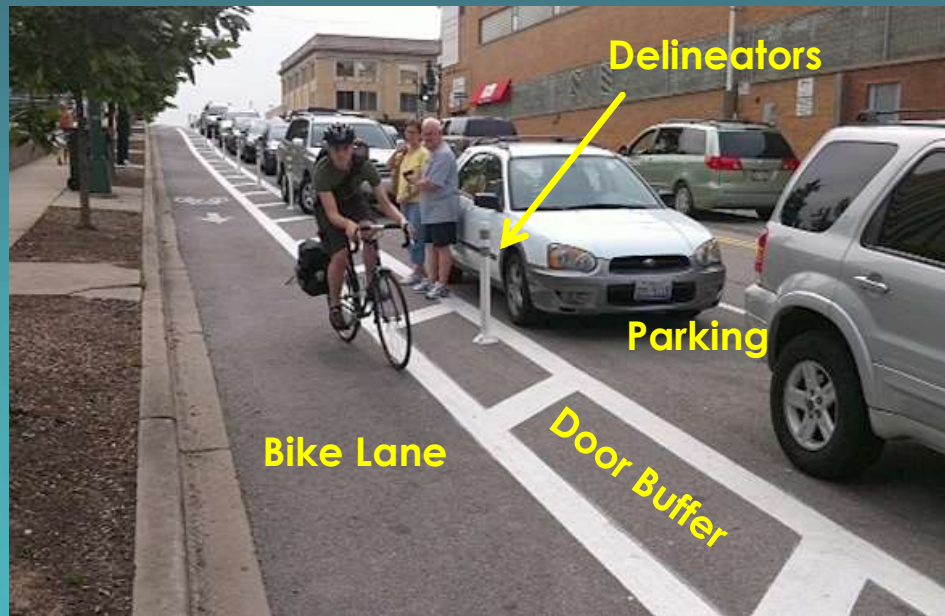


- Very well received by cyclists, in general
- Felt to be an improvement from 5th St design
- Pedestrian and cyclist separation - drainage
- More confident cyclists use the lanes (rather than road)
- Like all protected lanes, left turns take some practice and confidence

Parking Protected Bike Lanes

...controversial, not just for drivers, but for cyclists as well...

Parking Protected Bike Lane



- A row of parked cars is placed between the curbside bike lane and the flow of traffic
- Provides separation of cyclists and moving vehicles

Parking Adjacent Bike Lane





Challenges

- Without proper markings or delineators, drivers tend to park in bike lane (their door opens into traffic flow so they squeeze right)
- Must have a buffer for passenger doors to open
- If no cars are parked, protection is minimal
- If there are a lot of cars parked, it can hide the cyclists
- Difficult for cyclists to navigate left hand turns
- Should not be used in areas with numerous driveways or alleys



Cycling Network Goals



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- Plan and build a **“spinal” network of major physically protected bike routes** along with **supporting arterial routes** of appropriate types based on traffic volumes, speeds and roadway width limitations.
- **Identify major potential cycling destinations** such as NIC, Hospital, schools, downtown, shopping malls, etc and **ensure they have excellent cycling infrastructure**
- **Identify “gaps”** where continuity is challenging and engage with users to provide best solutions
- Find and **implement interim solutions** in areas where the ultimate solution is high cost or requires land appropriations

Dedication of Funds and Personnel



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Annual work should address:

1. **Maintenance of existing network** (sweeping, snow removal, painting, repair)
2. Addition of **new painted network** (lower cost/km items)
3. **Detailed design work** on major AT projects where routing and facility type are known (get “shovel ready” for grants)
4. **Study challenging areas** and engage with stakeholders to help finalize routing and facility types
5. Include plans for secure bike parking and other **“end of trip” facilities**

5th Street Bridge – Anderton Ave Underpass



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- Feeling safe riding your bike is not just about traffic
- Prioritize demolition of “Bridge” nightclub and provide a proper underpass that includes mobility scooters and wheelchairs

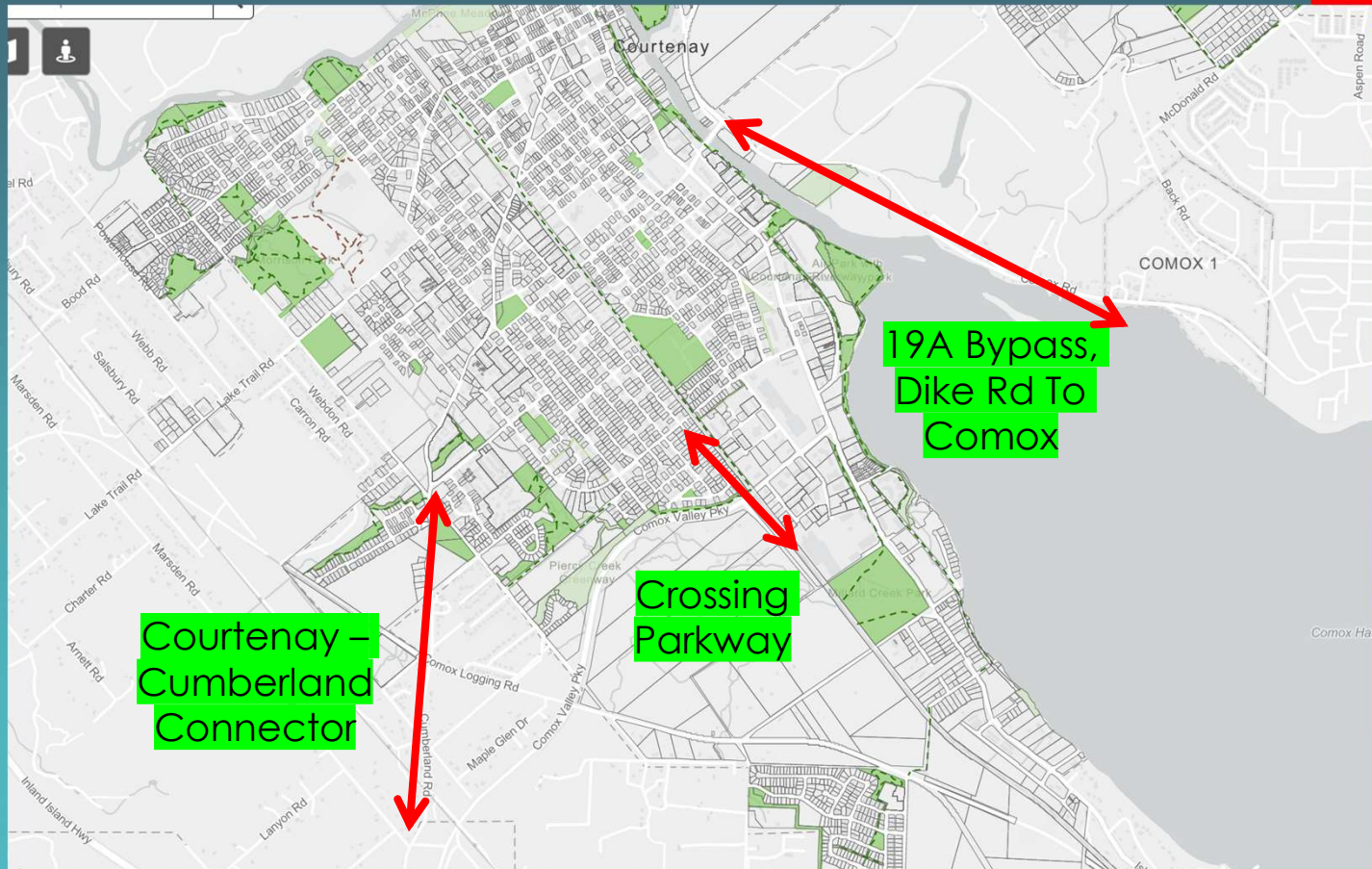


Examples of Gaps and Challenging Areas (1)



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All of these projects are multi-jurisdictional (MoTI, CVRD, Cumberland, Comox, KFN)



Courtenay -
Cumberland
Connector

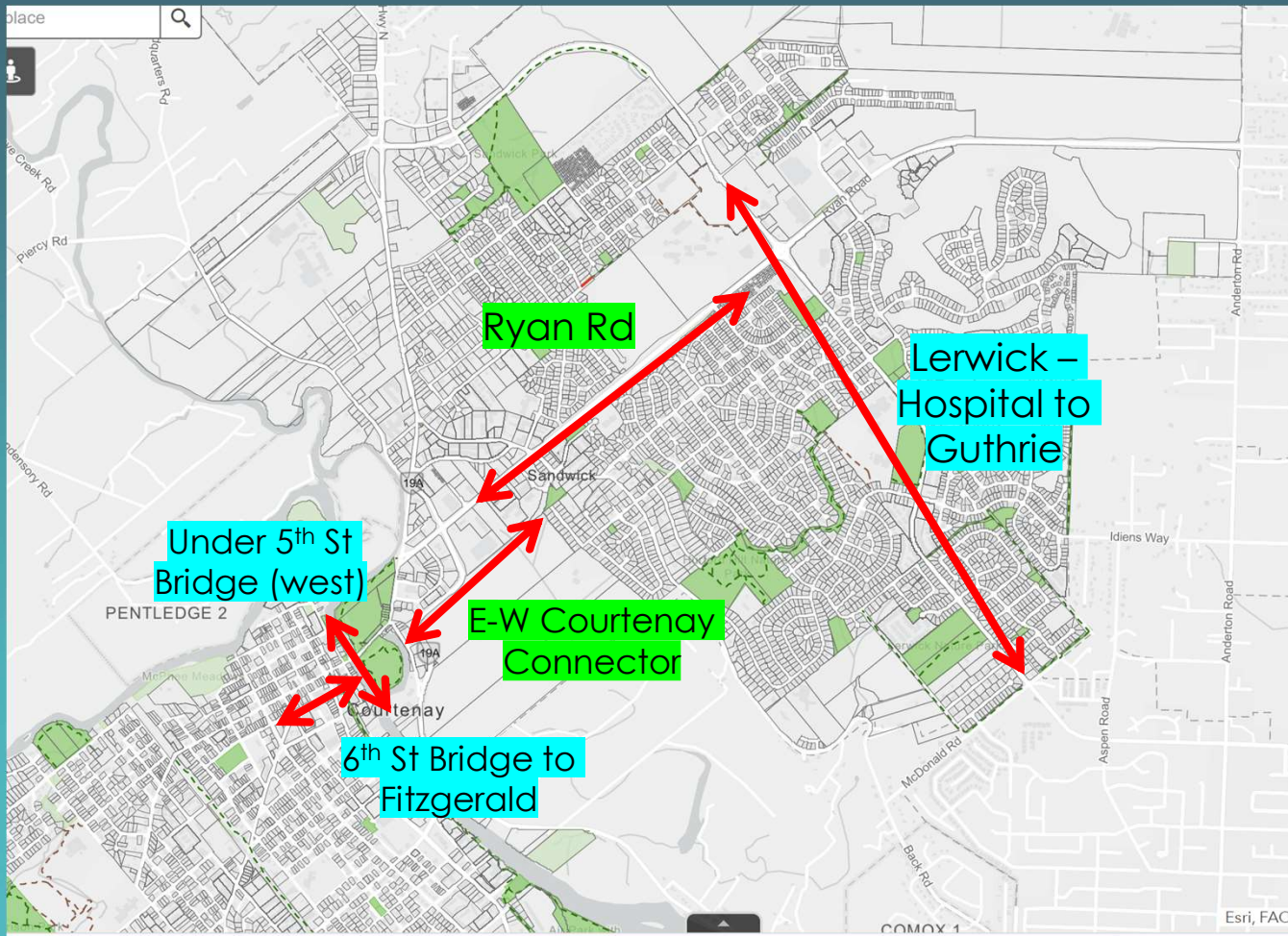
19A Bypass,
Dike Rd To
Comox

Crossing
Parkway

Courtenay – Examples of Challenging Areas (2)



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Projects in Green are multi-jurisdictional (MoTI, Ducks Unlimited)

Going Forward



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We appreciate the proactive working relationship and trust that has been built between City staff and the Cycling Coalition over the years...

We would respectfully ask the following:

1. Consider **personnel dedicated to Active Transportation**
2. Increased awareness of maintenance (**sweeping and paint**)
3. **Work with users on solving challenging areas** (open houses, charettes, social media campaigns)
4. Better knowledge and planning of secure bike parking and other **“end of trip” routing or facilities**



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The Comox Valley Cycling Coalition greatly appreciates your support for active transportation.

Email: cyclecv@gmail.com

Website: www.cyclecv.com

Social Media: Facebook and Instagram

Thank You Very Much !