

City of Maple Ridge
ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA

Wednesday, April 26, 2017, 7:00 pm
Blaney Room, Maple Ridge City Hall

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
2. **AGENDA ADOPTION**
3. **MINUTES APPROVAL – March 29, 2017**
4. **NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - 4.1 Review of multi modal plans from the Strategic Transportation Plan
 - 4.2 Cycling on Sidewalks
 - 4.3 2017 & 2018 Committee Work Plan / Strategy
 - 4.4 Requests for Agenda Items
 - 4.5 Meeting Frequency / Schedule
5. **CORRESPONDENCE**
 - 5.1 Letter from Ms. Kovacs (MACAI member) to Council re: cycling on sidewalks
 - 5.2 FYI to ATAC – Senior’s Network Letter re: cycling on sidewalks
 - 5.3 FYI to ATAC – CFB Letter to Council re: cycling on sidewalks
6. **ROUNDTABLE**
7. **QUESTION PERIOD**
8. **ADJOURNMENT**

QUESTION PERIOD

Question Period provides the public with the opportunity to ask questions or make comments on subjects that are of concern to them. Each person will be given 2 minutes to speak. Up to ten minutes in total is allotted for Question Period.

Sunny Schiller

From: Maria Kovacs <vovo.maria@telus.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 3:03 PM
To: Sunny Schiller
Subject: Fw: attention to council of Maple ridge

Sunny can you please forward the email to the group.

Thanks a million, Maria

----- Original Message -----

From: [Maria Kovacs](#)
To: mayorandcouncil@mapleridge.ca
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 3:00 PM
Subject: attention to council of Maple ridge

Dear Mayor and members of council!

I am a resident of Maple Ridge and have a disability and have had many problems for sharing the sidewalks with bikes.

My disability is blindness, and I also travel with a guide dog.

As I am walking to do my daily duties I encounter almost all the time bikes in the sidewalk.

The road I travel to catch a bus or to go to the bank is Doodeknee trunk Road. Because of these encounters which is almost every time I am traveling on these sidewalks, I am forced to go to the road so I do not get hit with the bike.

Guess what? then I am in trouble, because I can get hit with a car traveling at pretty high speeds.

What do I do now if you allowed the bikes in the sidewalk?

Who is responsible to keep me safe then?

The bikes I encounter are driven by students from the West view high school.

This is not all I have encounter on my walks in the city of Maple Ridge.

On 123 Street I have also encounter a horse on the sidewalk which my dog took a fear and pushed me into the on coming traffic.

I am a resident of Maple Ridge, a tax payer and I have rights to travel on a sidewalk without being run over by a bike or a horse.

Bike lanes are for bikes not sidewalks. In my area there many seniors another blind persons and we all have to be at the mercy of the bike riders without any respect for walking persons, with a disability or seniors.

Please consider to not create a law which does not keep me safe and others.

Put bike riding in bike lanes and this concept is not that foreign, because in Europe pedestrians and bike with proper sidewalks exist to accommodate both.

If my rights are violated, and I lose my rights for being able to travel independently on a sidewalk, my next stop will be Human Rights.

Thank you for reading this email.

Sincerely,

Maria Kovacs

Sunny Schiller

Subject: FW: Cycling on Sidewalks

From: Heather Treleven [<mailto:seniorsnetworkmpk@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:26 PM

To: Heather Treleven

Subject: Cycling on Sidewalks

Hello,

The Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) for the City of Maple Ridge is currently discussing the bylaw which allows bicycles on our sidewalks. I have had several seniors tell me informally they have experienced near misses and even in some cases collided with folks on bicycles. It is posing particular concern for those with hearing loss who may not be aware when someone is approaching them from behind and they are frightened at the last second.

Out of concern for pedestrians and downtown shoppers, the Downtown Maple Ridge Business Improvement Association has submitted a letter to Council, stating they would like to see this bylaw reversed back. Unfortunately, no one has made an official complaint to Council to date so it is difficult to prove this is a concern for City residents. We are asking seniors, business owners, moms, shoppers, and anyone who is concerned to report their experiences (near misses, bad experiences involving bicycles on the sidewalks) specifically in our downtown of Maple Ridge.

You can contact Maple Ridge Mayor and Council as follows:

email: mayorandcouncil@mapleridge.ca

Mayor & Council
11995 Haney Place
Maple Ridge, BC V2X 6A9

Or by phone/fax:
Tel: 604-463-5221
Fax: 604-467-7329

Thanks!
Heather



Heather Treleaven

Co-ordinator

Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, Katzie, Seniors Network

604-786-7404

email: seniorsnetworkmpk@gmail.com

Sunny Schiller

From: Laurie Darcus
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 4:37 PM
To: Sunny Schiller; David Pollock
Subject: Fw: making sidewalks safe for pedestrians

Sent from my BlackBerry - the most secure mobile device - via the Rogers Network

From: president@cfb.ca
Sent: April 13, 2017 2:01 PM
To: MayorCouncilAndCaol@mapleridge.ca
Reply-to: president@cfb.ca
Subject: making sidewalks safe for pedestrians

Dear Mayor and Council,

The Canadian Federation of the Blind is a membership organization dedicated to the complete integration of blind people into Canadian society on an equitable basis. Blind people are pedestrians and therefore have a strong interest in pedestrian friendly cities.

Far too often, pedestrians, cyclists,, and skateboard riders are lumped into the general category of “people who don’t drive.” City planners tend to expect them all to coexist happily on sidewalks.

That plan doesn’t always work well, especially not for pedestrians. Older people, those with mobility impairments, and blind individuals can find it difficult to share a sidewalk with a fast moving bicyclist, especially if the cyclist fails to respect pedestrians and assumes that they will always be the ones who move out of the way. Swiftly moving nearly silent vehicles constitute a safety hazard for blind people who rely on hearing to keep us safe.

We recommend the creation of bike paths separate from sidewalks wherever possible. In those cases where cyclists and walkers must share the same space, strong pedestrian friendly bylaws are essential. At the very least, any bicycle being ridden on a sidewalk should be required to emit continuous sounds sufficient to warn pedestrians of their presence.

Unless city bylaws incorporate safety measures to protect everyone who uses the sidewalks, pedestrians are liable to be injured and Maple Ridge is liable to be deemed to have contributed to those injuries.

Sincerely,
 Mary Ellen Gabias, President
 Canadian Federation of the Blind