

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

For immediate release



Your **Cycling** Connection

### **Making the Arbutus Greenway a Safe Space for Everyone** Opportunities for input this weekend, many types of wheeled users and families seek smooth surface

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Over 20 years ago the idea of a greenway along the Arbutus Corridor was first tabled by the City of Vancouver, offering the chance to transform a former rail route into an active transportation oasis serving Vancouver residents and visitors.

After more than two decades of wrangling, the land for this space was finally secured by the City and a temporary surface was being constructed for the 9km route which would open up the area to people getting around safely on foot, bicycle, scooter, wheelchair, and other active modes of travel.

As a result of some local residents protesting the temporary paved surface, the City has paused work on some parts of the Greenway to hold public consultation.

This change to the plans means that the greenway is not currently accessible to many users that rely on a hard, smooth surface for access and safety. The greenway's vision was to be appealing and practical for people of all ages and abilities to move through the city safely. Speaking about this risk, HUB Cycling Executive Director, Erin O'Melinn said: "Paved surfacing would allow the Arbutus Corridor to fulfil its envisioned purpose and will create a route that is accessible, enjoyable and - most importantly - safe for a wide range of groups including wheelchair users, pedestrians and novice cyclists."

Gabrielle Peters, who uses a manual wheelchair, was looking forward to accessing the Greenway: "This would be a welcome addition for me as sidewalks are often narrow and I spend a lot of my time paying attention to people who aren't paying attention, noticing drivers who don't notice me and dealing with sidewalks designed for a different era."

Peters says the City needs to "finish what they started" and is in favour of paving the route as the current unpaved areas are not accessible for her, adding: "It seems to me given Vancouver's wet climate and inclines, paving is a logical choice for its urban location and will allow for minimal maintenance while guaranteeing maximum accessibility."

Smooth surfacing on the Greenway will make it a space that is accessible to bike riders of all ages and abilities, similar to the Seawall. Adrian Crook, a father of five, and his family, were excited about using the route but the lack of paving has changed their view. He said: "We were looking forward to a flat, smooth, level path on which to ride; given that, my kids can ride for hours. Anything more challenging and they fall off more quickly... so we won't be riding it until it's paved or the kids are older."

Adding to the conversation about the surface, Adrian said: "The Arbutus Corridor was purchased by the city for the use of all its residents - of all ages and abilities - and therefore a small group of residents should get a proportionally small say in how it's developed. The Greenway is just too vital a link and public resource to be co-opted by a small self-interest group."

The City of Vancouver is making other safety improvements, but for the moment, the planned smooth surfacing remains on hold until public consultation takes place. HUB Cycling encourages the public to be involved in the upcoming workshops on Sept 17, 21, or 22nd or the other consultation opportunities.

More information and registration can be found at [vancouver.ca/arbutus-greenway](http://vancouver.ca/arbutus-greenway)

### **Photo**

Photo available [here](#).

### **Media Contact**

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### **About HUB Cycling:**

HUB Cycling's mission is to get more people cycling more often in order to build healthier, happier and more connected communities.

HUB is a charitable nonprofit that has spent nearly two decades 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 to make cycling safer and more convenient. For more information, visit [bikehub.ca](http://bikehub.ca).

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