



Vancouver Park Board Votes to Place Stanley Park Cyclists in Harm's Way

- ABC commissioners have returned Stanley Park Drive's bike lane to motorists, without locking in their prior commitment to replace it with safe infrastructure by next summer.
- The move needlessly endangers vulnerable road users and will not reduce vehicle congestion.

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COAST SALISH TERRITORIES (VANCOUVER) — A decision made this evening by the ABC-majority Vancouver Park Board will result in fewer cyclists enjoying Stanley Park and an elevated risk of being hit by a driver for those who opt to continue riding there.

“Time and again, we have seen that one of the best ways to reduce traffic congestion is to entice people out of their cars by making alternatives to driving more attractive, and one way to do that is to make cycling safer via protected infrastructure,” said Lucy Maloney, a spokesperson for a grassroots group called Love the Lane (lovethelane.ca).

“Tonight the Park Board took a step backward, without locking in its election commitment to install an improved separated bike lane by next summer. Removing the lane will not only reduce safety for cyclists but also *increase* traffic by attracting more drivers to the park—a well-documented phenomenon known as induced demand.”

Earlier this evening, ABC Park Board Commissioners voted to immediately dismantle the separated and largely protected bike lane along Stanley Park Drive, giving road space back to drivers who will, once again, have two lanes for their vehicles.

Since March 2021, when the Vancouver Park Board first installed it, some have alleged that the current cycling lane severed vehicle access to park businesses and attractions. These claims

were false. The current configuration, a modification of a previous design, afforded motorists access to parking lots at all park attractions and a greater number of accessible parking spaces than existed before the start of the pandemic.

This evening's ABC-drafted motion failed to confirm the party's own election promise to install an improved bike lane before next summer.

Instead, the motion directs Park Board staff to reposition the ongoing Stanley Park Mobility Study as a planning tool that "*can* deliver new, permanent, dedicated cycling infrastructure in the park." [Emphasis ours.] The motion simply restates a number of the study's operating principles, in a more limited fashion.

In a pre-election survey, five of six ABC Park Board candidates stated their support for the protected bike lane on Stanley Park Drive. This evening, all of them voted to remove it. Tom Digby, the sole Green Party commissioner on the board, opposed the motion.

At tonight's meeting, Park Board staff stated that they had received 519 emails from members of the public opposing the lane's removal, and only 49 supporting it.

Sources:

- "We are going to be working to deliver an engineered solution that will allow both a permanent bike lane and two full lanes of vehicle traffic."
—Commissioner Scott Jensen, Jill Bennett Show, CKNW, October 16, 2022.
- "The ABC plan for Stanley Park is to restore the previous access at the end of this fall and work to build a new, dedicated cycling path in time for next summer."
—Commissioner Brennan Bastyovansky, Municipal Election Candidate Survey, HUB Cycling, released September 29, 2022.
(<https://bikehub.ca/resources/2022-municipal-elections>.)