

Park Board Report Offers a Clear Lane for Safer Cycling on Stanley Park Drive

One of three proposed reconfigurations includes an interim bike lane around the entire length of the park road.

MEDIA RELEASE - February 10, 2023 One of three proposed new configurations to modify the temporary separated bike lane on Park Drive could offer a way out of the deadlock that has divided many who access the park on four wheels from those that do so on two.

The second of the three configurations offered in a new Park Board <u>staff report</u>, **Option B**, proposes restoring "pre-COVID traffic flow" and constructing what it describes as an "interim" bike lane around the entire park.

The option proposes replacing traffic cones with a mountable low curb "that is more attractive and allows for emergency and operation vehicles access where needed." The result would be a semi-permanent bike lane that could be in place for the summer of 2023—a campaign promise of the majority ABC Park Board commissioners.

"While none of the three options offered are ideal, Option B offers cyclists physical separation from motorists and dedicated road space, which is our primary concern," said Love the Lane's Lucy Maloney.

"The proposed mountable curb option, which would run most of the length of Park Drive, is a reasonable starting point for further improvements down the line," Maloney added. "The other proposed changes bundled up in this option will continue to demonstrate that a single motorist lane is more than adequate for those who choose to access the park via vehicle."

While the mountable curb in Option B would need to be beefed up down the road to improve safety, it does offer cyclists more protection from motorists than the current line of traffic plastic cones, which offer none.

The report is the follow-up to the January 16 meeting, when Park Board commissioners asked staff to recommend options for planning a more permanent bike lane on Park Drive with particular focus on what elements of the current lane might be retained for cost and safety reasons.

The three recommendations are thoughtfully presented, and reflect directions from Park Board commissioners, public feedback, key issues, information pertaining to the monitoring of traffic conditions, phasing ability, associated costs, and timelines. The report offers pathways to improve traffic flow and accessibility in the park "while considering the voices of many people who have expressed appreciation and concerns."

Vancouver Park Board Commissioners will be invited to vote on one of the three options at their meeting on Monday February 13.

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