



## Park Board Explores Hanging On to Fragments of Stanley Park Drive Protected Bike Lane

STATEMENT - JANUARY 17, 2023 — Cyclists reacted positively but cautiously to news that the ABC-dominated Vancouver Park Board will consider retaining various isolated features of the temporary separated bike lane on Stanley Park Drive.

In the final minutes of its January 16 meeting, ABC Commissioner Angela Haer presented an urgent motion that directed staff to consider specific elements of the current lane that might be repurposed to support “safety, accessibility, traffic flow, way-finding, and aesthetics on Stanley Park Drive.”

Despite earlier speculative reports suggesting the Park Board might be reversing course on its plan to remove the Stanley Park Drive bike lane, ABC Park Board commissioners confirmed that they still intend to dismantle the lane—including infrastructure such as concrete barriers that help protect cyclists from motorists.

In early December, ABC Park Board Commissioners voted to give the road space back to drivers who would, once again, have two lanes for their vehicles. A subsequent memo from staff estimated that removing the bike lane would take until at least April 2023 and cost as much as \$425,000. While campaigning for election this past summer, some ABC commissioners promised to remove the current bike lane, but replace it with a new design by summer 2023.

Cyclists are disappointed that the ABC-dominated Park Board will not leave the lane in place until the new design is ready to implement, but are cautiously pleased with last night’s move to retain some of its more capital-intensive features.

This decision would save money and could even help ABC keep its election promise to install an improved bike lane by this coming summer. It also acknowledges the important work done by staff in designing and revising the Stanley Park Drive bike lane, and allows the promised redesign to build on existing infrastructure rather than simply wipe the slate clean and start over.

The motion asks staff to look into retaining features such as the protection on the dangerous uphill roadway to Prospect Point, the successful reconfiguration of the Stanley Park Tea House's parking lot, the congestion-reducing protection on the Brockton Point bypass, and the important safety features at the Beach Avenue entry down to Second Beach (Ceperley Meadows).

The motion directs staff to make its recommendations on the above locations no later than February 13, 2023.

All commissioners voted to approve Commissioner Haer's motion, including Vancouver Green Party's Tom Digby, the board's sole non-ABC representative.

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