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Mayor and Council
District of Central Saanich
1903 Mt Newton X Road
Saanichton, BC
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Dear Mayor and Council,

As a citizen of Central Saanich, I believe that if I see a safety issue within my community, I have the responsibility to correct the issue and/or report this safety issue to those who can correct the situation. My safety concerns are over the two recent Active Transportations projects in Central Saanich:

1. The pathway on Stelly's in front of the fairgrounds.
2. The bike lanes added on East Saanich north of the Wallace intersection on the west side of East Saanich.

Both of these projects are helping to make Active Transportation in Central Saanich safer and more available, however I firmly believe "minor improvements" are required to increase the safe use of these improvements. My concerns are based on my use of this pathway and bike lane, discussions with other users, and my own observations.

Question: Will the Council ask that a "Post Construction Safety Review" of these two projects be completed by district staff with the appropriate training and skills?



Safety Concerns I noted:

1. The pathway on Stelly's in front of the fairgrounds:

This pathway is narrow and has the following:

- A ditch on the south sides
- Telephone/Hydro Poles
- Support Wires for the Telephone/Hydro Poles
- A 4-strand barbwire fence on the north side up against the path
- Path is intersected by two roadways leading into the fairgrounds
- Occasionally piles of horse manure¹

My major safety concern is the barbwire fence, as it is located extremely close to the pathway, 9 inches away from the pathway. If a cyclist or runner happened to trip and fall in to this "fence", the consequences would be severe. I have observed near misses on this path on more than one occasion. In addition, noting the narrow width of this pathway, cyclists using this pathway should be cautioned.

2. The bike lanes added on East Saanich north of the Wallace intersection:

This Active Transportation improvement consists of a few hundred metres of a new bike lane on the west side of East Saanich. The safety area of concern is where the bike lane ends abruptly as it meets up with a section of designated parking on the roadway. At this point, for about 100 metres, cyclists are forced to merge in to traffic in order to navigate around the parked vehicles and then re-enter the continuation of the bike lane, which is further down the road.

¹ I had a discussion with a person living at the new housing development west of the fairgrounds who was very positive of this new pathway and has on several occasions cleaned up the horse manure as his role in keeping others safe.



The safety issue noted was the lack of signage warning cycling and automotive traffic of this need for cyclists to fully merge into traffic. Please note, although there is a painted warning on the roadway, but if there are several automobiles in a row only the first car can see these markings. In addition, this marking on the road does not provide a warning to allow automobiles to prepare for cyclists to merge into traffic.

This roadway and bike lane are well used by its citizens of Central Saanich and by others who are in the area for business or pleasure, i.e. Central Saanich has two major tourist attractions and the Mill Bay Ferry, which considerably increase the volume of traffic on our roadways.

I strongly believe additional signage is required at this location clearly warning cyclists of the need to merge in to traffic at this point. In addition, this signage would warn vehicular traffic that cyclists will be merging in to their lane, and to take the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of everyone concerned.

Summary: These two Active Transportation improvements are being used and appreciated by many, however I believe a “Post Construction Safety Review” is required. Due to the nature of the wide skill and age range of users of Active Transportation, a post construction safety review should be completed on all future Active Transportation projects and provided to Council.

Thank-you for your consideration of my question and recommendations, it is much appreciated. An additional thank-you for funding and completing these two Active Transportation Projects.

Bruce D Elliot

CC: Brian Barnett, Director of Engineering Central Saanich

Central Saanich Community Association

