



January 04, 2024

Michael Braun, Operations Manager
Shannon Payne, District Engineer
Geoff Abbott, Area Manager, roads
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
310 - 1500 Woolridge Street
Coquitlam, BC V3K 0B8

Sent by e-mail: Michael.Braun@gov.bc.ca
Sent by e-mail: Shannon.Payne@gov.bc.ca
Sent by e-mail: Geoff.Abbott@gov.bc.ca

Dear Michael, Shannon, and Geoff,

Re: Highway 99 Cycling Maintenance and Infrastructure Priorities

Introduction

The Whistler Cycling Club (WCC) offers the following assessment of the condition of cycling infrastructure on Highway 99 in the Whistler area and Callaghan Valley Road during the summer cycling season, April through October 2023. For reference, [WCC's January 13, 2023 report](#) provided a comprehensive assessment of the entire Sea to Sky corridor during 2022.

The Climate Action Strategy of the Resort Municipality of Whistler includes a goal to increase active transport by bicycle as a means of decreasing automobile related emissions. Additional trips by bicycle on the Highway 99 shoulder between Function Junction and Emerald Estates will be essential to meeting that goal. Many of those trips will be made by the rapidly growing number of e-bikes in Whistler, some not suited for Whistler's off-road Valley Trail network.

Condition and maintenance of cycling infrastructure in the Whistler area

In general, a 1.5 to 2 m minimum width paved shoulder, free of sand/gravel/debris/potholes/cracks and separated from vehicle traffic by a white fog line, are the most important factors for the safety of those cycling for recreation and transportation.

Observations during the 2023 cycling season:

- **Shoulder sweeping**
The initial sweep of winter gravel on the Highway 99 shoulder between Function Junction and Emerald Estates was conducted between late May and mid-June in 2023, significantly later than previous years. This forced cyclists to ride close to or in the vehicle lane.
- **Annual fog line repainting**
The fog lane on Highway 99 through Whistler was repainted in late June and was highly visible during much of the cycling season. This was the earliest annual line painting in memory, clearly marking the boundary between the vehicle travel lane and shoulder bikeway.
- **Shoulder pavement condition**
The previous WCC report ([link above](#)) had identified several cracks and potholes in the Highway 99 shoulder pavement between Whistler Creekside and Function Junction. These were repaired in the summer of 2023, providing a good quality shoulder surface throughout.
- **Emerald Estates to WedgeWoods repaving project**
In September and October 2023 approximately five kilometers of Highway 99 between Emerald Estates and WedgeWoods was completely repaved, providing a wide shoulder for cyclists. The previous WCC report had identified many sections of damaged shoulder pavement. This work, along with previous full repaving projects in 2015, 2016 and 2021 has



resulted in a good quality shoulder between Nicklaus North and the top of the hill south of the Motorcross Track, approximately 17 km.

- Intersection safety on Highway 99 through Whistler
Intersections can be a hazard for cyclists travelling through, because of interactions with vehicles turning off and onto the highway. Signage and pavement markings can assist cyclists in safely crossing the vehicle turning lane. It is noted that Highway 99 intersections through Squamish have a green “Bike Route” sign (with a bike symbol), above a white “Cross Here When Safe” sign. There are currently none at Highway 99 intersections in Whistler.
- Share the Road signs.
Share the Road signs alert drivers that cycling is permitted and encourage both cyclists and drivers to safely share the road. Within Whistler there are currently three northbound Share the Road signs and only one southbound. Between Squamish and Whistler there are none.
- Callaghan Valley Road to Whistler Olympic Park
This road is frequently used by cyclists and is a feature of the annual GranFondo Whistler Medio event. The shoulder and travel lanes are badly cracked and deteriorating each year. A small amount of asphalt patching was done prior to the September 2023 event. [WCC Letter to MOTI Jan 2024 v1.docx](#)
- Lillooet River bridge
The bridge deck, including the shoulder, was resurfaced in 2023, which remedied a previous hazard for cyclists. This complements previous full repaving projects with a wide shoulder in the Pemberton area between One Mile Lake and the Lillooet River bridge.

Recommendations to improve cycling safety.

- Complete the initial shoulder sweep between Function Junction and Emerald Estates in mid to late April, at the beginning of the cycling season.
- Complete the annual fog line repainting between Function Junction and Emerald Estates by late spring, following the initial shoulder sweep.
- Install Share the Road signs southbound near Village Gate Blvd. and near Lake Placid Road to supplement current signs. Install Share the Road signs both northbound and southbound between Squamish and Whistler.
- Install signage and pavement markings at Highway 99 intersections through Whistler.
- Continue to repair and repave deteriorated sections of the Callaghan Valley Road.
- Continue to repave sections of Highway 99 toward Pemberton.

We would be pleased to have the opportunity to meet and discuss with MOTI staff.

Sincerely,
Alan Riches
President, Whistler Cycling Club www.whistlercyclingclub.ca

cc: Jordan Sturdy, MLA for West Vancouver-Sea to Sky
James Hallisey, General Manager, Infrastructure Services, RMOW
Dale Mikkelsen, General Manager, Climate Action Planning and Development, RMOW
Emma DaSanto, Transportation Demand Management Coordinator, RMOW
WCC Advocacy Committee – John Morley, Bob Barnett, Frank Savage