



**GREATER VICTORIA
CYCLING
COALITION**

709 Yates. St.
PO Box 8586, Victoria Main Post Office
Victoria, B.C. V8W 3S2

Re: Design for the 400 block of Belleville Street Bike Lanes

Dear City of Victoria Mayor & Council,

The Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition (GVCC) is pleased that the City is moving quickly towards becoming a more friendly place for people to bike. However, the GVCC is concerned about the current design for bike lanes on the 400 block of Belleville Street.

As part of our spectacular waterfront, Belleville Street forms part of both the Trans-Canada Trail and the Seaside Touring Route. However, the current design for the 400 block does not provide protection for the bike lane. With heavy pick-up and drop-off traffic, we are concerned that people in cars will use the bike lane as parking. If so, the bike lane will not achieve its intended aim - provide a dedicated space for people, residents and tourist alike, to safely and comfortably ride their bikes.

The current design also focuses on the 400 block of Belleville Street, not whole Seaside Touring Route included in the 2014 All Ages and Abilities (AAA) network. As plans for the new CRD Core Area Wastewater Treatment Project include a two-way protected bike lane along 3 km of Dallas Road, people who want to ride their bikes on the waterfront will face a significant gap between Dallas Road and the downtown Biketoria network (see map).



We understand the financial need to redesignate the David Foster Harbour Pathway as a pedestrian-only route. However, a safe place to bike along the waterfront is a staple of vibrant cities around the world. Without the David Foster Harbour Pathway, that role must be taken by the adjacent streets-- including Belleville Street.

In light of these concerns, we propose the following options for Council's consideration:

1. Delay the Belleville Street work until a full plan for the Seaside Touring Route AAA bikeway is developed.
2. Build portions of the Belleville Street work as a pilot project, especially the curb bulges on the northern side. This would allow future work to happen at a lower cost.
3. Amend the design to include protected bike infrastructure.

These options would allow the development what we feel is the best solution - a two-way protected bike lane on the north side of Belleville that connects to planned cycling infrastructure on Wharf Street, Government Street, and finally connecting to the future two-way protected bike path on Dallas Road.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Breanna Merrigan

Breanna Merrigan

Vice President

Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition (GVCC)

info@gvcc.bc.ca

More people cycling, more places, more often