

SAFER CYCLING CONDITIONS/ MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

The Comox Valley Regional District board, on occasion, elects to support province-wide concerns and issues in the form of a board resolution. These resolutions are normally forwarded first to the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) for consideration but may also be forwarded directly to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). Based on the nature of the concern, UBCM will either endorse or not endorse the recommendation and if endorsed, will present the concern to the provincial or federal government on behalf of all BC municipalities and regional district.

Date of Board meeting: June 24, 2008

Board Resolution: WHEREAS getting people out of their cars and onto bicycles reduces global warming, decreases air pollution and creates a healthier population;
AND WHEREAS unsafe cycling conditions are a major deterrent to getting people on to their bicycles;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ministry of Transportation provide additional resources for year round, regular sweeping of road shoulders and cycle lanes in order to remove gravel and debris and thus create safer cycling;
AND FINALLY THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Union of BC Municipalities 2008 convention.

This resolution was referred to UBCM on, June 27, 2008

A response was received on May 6, 2009

Response from UBCM: On motion, was ENDORSED at annual convention: The Resolutions Committee advises that UBCM membership has not previously considered a specific resolution requesting that the Ministry of Transportation regularly sweep road shoulders and cycle lanes to remove gravel and debris. However, members have endorsed previous resolutions highlighting the need to improve cycling safety and infrastructure (2007-B14; 2007-B99; 2006-B140).
The Ministry of Transportation has indicated that the goal of its cycling policy is "to integrate bicycling by providing safe, accessible and convenient bicycle facilities on the Province of British Columbia's highways and to support and encourage cycling." The cycling policy states that provisions will be made for cyclists on all new and upgraded provincial highways. The Ministry's policy is also to increase highway shoulder width during construction or paving projects, whenever feasible, and then provide ongoing maintenance.

Additionally this resolution was referred to the Ministry The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure recognizes the health, environmental, social and economic benefits of cycling. Through its

**of Transportation and
Infrastructure**

maintenance contractors the Ministry provides many maintenance services that benefit cyclists (e.g., shoulder sweeping, debris removal, line painting, pavement rehabilitation etc.). Ministry staff regularly meet with the maintenance contractor to discuss the needs of all road users.

The sweeping of highway shoulders is provided, as part of the maintenance contract, on a regular frequency, with additional service being provided if debris accumulates and creates a dangerous environment for highway users. Debris will begin to accumulate on a highway shoulder as soon as sweeping has occurred. This is especially true on highways with high traffic volumes and speeds as the wind created by the vehicles pushes the debris to the shoulder. The Ministry monitors the performance of the maintenance contractors and can audit their records to determine if the minimum sweeping frequencies are being met, and if additional services are being provided when warranted (i.e., the amount or size of the debris is dangerous to cyclists).