



**ROCKLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION**

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**November 23, 2015**

**Dear Sir / Madam,**

**We would like to make a strong recommendation for the selection of Richardson Street as one of the eight new cycling corridors.**

**Richardson Street is a popular route for cyclists. It is relatively flat, and it connects downtown with Oak Bay, Rockland, Gonzales, and Fairfield. Rather than leading to the tourist area of downtown, it connects with Vancouver Street, the new pedestrian/cycle path between Vancouver Street and Quadra Street, Fort Street, and the main commercial areas to the north of Fort Street. There is easy access from Richardson Street to Fairfield Plaza, five corners at Moss and Fairfield, and three schools: Margaret Jenkins, Sir James Douglas schools, and Glenlyon-Norfolk. It also connects with McNeill, a popular and direct route to destinations in Oak Bay.**

**The latest data from the CRD's Bike Count indicates that Richardson Street is used far more often than Fairfield. As the City has been told in previous meetings regarding how to increase cycling in Victoria, the better approach is to improve routes already popular with cyclists rather than attempt to move cyclists onto less-attractive routes.**

**Selecting Richardson Street over Fairfield Road would not deprive Fairfield of a corridor, as Richardson Street borders both Rockland and Fairfield / Gonzales neighbourhoods.**

**Richardson Street, popular as it is with cyclists of all ages, is neither a safe nor particularly comfortable route. Cars travel at unacceptable speeds along the entire route, there are blind corners at the foot of Lotbiniere and Robleda, and cyclists are often squeezed out by cars and buses. Improving this route by including it as one of the eight corridors would be appreciated by all the people who currently attempt to navigate it and by those who would like to be able to do so.**

**Sincerely,**

**Janet Simpson, President**