

Enclosed Attachment
January 25, 2021

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BC Whitewater
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Dear Mayor and Council:

[BC Whitewater](#) is a provincial organization that represents the interests of whitewater paddlers in British Columbia. We're focused primarily on protecting public access and free-flowing rivers.

We are reaching out because, as I'm sure you are aware, the section known as the [Upper Cheakamus](#) is one of BC's flagship whitewater reaches. More than one of our board members came to live in this area specifically because of the Upper Cheakamus and thousands of paddlers have come from all over the world to paddle it over the years. There's also a rich history of paddling on the Cheakamus that predates development in this area by a number of decades.

Having reviewed the plans for Phase 2 of the Cheakamus Crossing development, we are happy to see that continued access to the FSR is a priority and are writing both to emphasize how important that is to the whitewater community and to make some suggestions about how Whistler might mitigate some of the concerns that existing Cheakamus Crossing residents have expressed over the years.

While there is a road on the east side of the Cheakamus, at this time, it is not a suitable entry point for paddlers. First, the river isn't as close to the road in the vicinity of our put-in location and there's neither parking nor a trail. Second, even with the addition of a parking lot and a trail, the reach begins with a ten foot waterfall that many paddlers typically start below. The existing river left (west) access makes access and safety easy. We're open to the idea of a new paddlers' put-in on river right at some point in the future, but until that is explored and developed, east side access isn't feasible and we will continue to need access to the existing west side put-in.

As far as we can tell, the current plan for FSR access from House Rock -- our exit point from the river for the Upper Cheakamus run -- involves routing traffic back across the two bridges and up Mount Fee Road through the existing Cheakamus Crossing development. This is more than acceptable for our community as long as there is a firm commitment to maintaining FSR access, but we'd like to suggest an alternative that might be more appealing to the existing Cheakamus Crossing residents.



From our perspective, it appears as though the FSR could be easily connected into the new phase of Cheakamus Crossing at the junction of Mount Fee Road and Cloudburst Drive, allowing paddlers and other users of the FSR to drive straight from House Rock to the upper FSR without having to travel through the lower parts of the Cheakamus Crossing development.

We would also like to be kept apprised of the construction schedule and if any FSR closures will be scheduled in the spring and summer so we can communicate them to our constituents.

We deeply appreciate that the municipality respects our community's longstanding use of this area and look forward to being involved in any ongoing conversations about how best to preserve access and minimize user conflict in this area.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nick Gottlieb

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