

January 10, 2025

Michael Braun, Operations Manager

Sent by e-mail: Michael.Braun@gov.bc.ca

Geoff Abbott, Area Manager, Roads

Sent by e-mail: Geoff.Abbott@gov.bc.ca

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

310 - 1500 Woolridge Street

Coquitlam, BC V3K 0B8

Dear Michael and Geoff,

**Re: Highway 99 Cycling Maintenance and Infrastructure Priorities – 2024 Report**

**Introduction**

The Whistler Cycling Club (WCC) offers the following assessment of the condition of Highway 99 cycling infrastructure in the Whistler area during the April through October 2024 cycling season. This report is an update to our January 4, 2024 report of the 2023 season.

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.

Cyclists can ride legally and safely on Highway 99 provided that the highway shoulder is appropriately maintained, marked and signed. This includes a minimum 1.5 to 2 m wide paved shoulder, free of gravel/debris/potholes/cracks and separated from vehicle traffic by a highly visible white fog line. Signage and pavement markings help to inform drivers that cycling is permitted and remind both cyclists and drivers to safely share the road.

**Condition of cycling infrastructure in the Whistler area in 2024**

- Shoulder Sweeping

In 2024 the initial sweep of winter gravel on the Highway 99 shoulder between Function and Emerald was conducted in mid-April, more than a month earlier than 2023. This was much appreciated by WCC members and all cyclists using the highway. The quality of sweeping was generally good, with the exception of northbound from Function to Spring Creek where there was considerable gravel on the shoulder throughout the cycling season.

- Fog Line Repainting

A relatively small amount of line repainting work was done on Highway 99 in the Whistler area in 2024, resulting in hazards for both cyclists and drivers of motor vehicles. It was noted that line

painting equipment was in Whistler in July, but was not used to refresh many areas where the lines were worn away. Shoulder lines from Function to Village Gate Blvd. were never repainted in 2024, with lines on inside curves completely absent.

Lack of line painting can also impact vehicle safety. Dashed white line paint marking southbound merge lanes at Village Gate Blvd. and Lake Placid Road are not visible, causing confusion for drivers who must merge into a single lane.

- **Shoulder Pavement Condition**

In general, the pavement on the Highway 99 shoulder between Function and WedgeWoods is in very good condition. However, there are potholes on the Mons overpass bridge deck and the pavement repairs completed in 2023 northbound at Lake Placid Road and southbound south of Spring Creek have deteriorated somewhat.

- **Share the Road Signs**

Share the Road signs (see Figure 1) 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.

- **Intersection Safety**

Intersections can be a hazard for cyclists because of potential 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 bicycle crossing signs (see Figure 2), while there are none at Highway 99 intersections in Whistler. Bicycle stencil pavement markings were previously used at some Whistler intersections, but these are worn away and have not been repainted.

- **Minimum Safe Passing Distance**

On June 3, 2024 minimum safe passing distance rules came into effect in BC to protect vulnerable road users (cyclists, pedestrians, motorcycles, etc.). On Highway 99 through Whistler this will require drivers to keep a minimum of 1.5 m distance when passing a cyclist. However, there are no signs to advise drivers of this new safety requirement. Figure 3 shows the sign template authorized by the province for installation on BC highways.

- **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 vehicle lanes are badly cracked and continue to deteriorate. In 2024 lane repaving was done in several short sections, including approaches to the Callaghan Creek bridge.

**Recommendations to improve cycling safety.**

- Continue to complete the initial shoulder sweep between Function Junction and Emerald Estates in mid to late April, as was done in 2024.
- Repaint fog lines annually between Function Junction and Emerald Estates by late spring, after 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 cycling signage and pavement markings at Highway 99 intersections through Whistler.
- Install Minimum Safe Passing Distance signs in Whistler and throughout the Sea to Sky corridor.
- 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](http://www.whistlercyclingclub.ca)

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[REDACTED] Whistler BC [REDACTED]

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cc: Jeremy Valeriote, MLA for West Vancouver-Sea to Sky

Mayor and Council, Resort Municipality of Whistler

Miller Capilano,

BC Cycling Coalition

## Figures

Figure 1 - Share the Road Sign  
- Squamish Intersection Sign



Figure 2



Figure 3 - BC Minimum Safe Passing Distance Sign - 2024



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