

Bike Route Feedback

Johnny Choy, Jordan Chu, Thomas Hoang, Sam Ng, Jordan Turrin (Group 9)

Background

Cycling in Vancouver has grown and developed into an essential part of commuters. Since the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, the city has constantly promoted cycling by making improvements to bike lanes to make it accessible for all ages and abilities (Chong, 2010). This research addresses the differences of the bike lanes through comparisons between our initial observations and the surveys collected from the cyclists. The data will be analyzed to determine if the bike routes are accessible for all ages and abilities.



Nelson Street Bike Lane

Project Design

The findings presented here are drawn from the bike lanes of Cambie Bridge, Nelson Street, and Richards Street. Initial Visual Observations of the three bike lanes were conducted, information to determine if our findings match with the cyclist's responses who frequent these bike lanes.

INCLUSION CRITERIA: We have included cyclists who use the bike lanes of the Cambie Bridge, Nelson Street and Richards Street.

SURVEY: A 3 Question in-person survey was distributed to cyclist who was using the bike route as our group were conducting the survey. The survey consists of the cyclist's perspective on the bike lane spacing, intersection safety and ride surface quality.

SURVEY DETAILS: Due to limited time, the short surveys consist of 3 questions:

- 1) With the space provided for the bike lane, do you think the space is adequate and safe for cycling? Y/N;
- 2) On a scale of 1-10; how safe do you feel as a cyclist, riding through the intersections in this downtown environment?
- 3) Do you think the surface of the bike lane is smooth enough to cycle comfortably?

SAMPLE: A total of 15 cyclists completed the survey. The sample included 2 female cyclist and 13 male cyclists.

Bike Lane 1:

Cambie Bridge Shared Path

The Cambie Bridge plays a crucial part for commuters, as it connects Central Vancouver with Downtown Vancouver. The shared path has seen annual increases in the usage and more commuters choosing active transportation (LaClaire, 2018).

SURVEY RESULTS:

- 1) 3/5 of participants Responded with "No" the space provided is not sufficient.
- 2) Every participant scored this bike lane "10/10" with no issues with the intersections.
- 3) Every Participant Responded with "Yes" there is no issue with the surface

Bike Lane 2:

Nelson Street Bike Lane

Nelson Street between Richards and Homer is a one-way street that experiences high flow of traffic on a daily basis. The street is very busy due to it being in a close proximity to BC Place, Rogers Arena, and Yaletown. This bike lane is protected by a median divider and a bike share station is located adjacent to the bike lane.

SURVEY RESULTS:

- 1) Every participant responded with "Yes" the space provided is sufficient.
- 2) 3/5 participants responded with "10/10"
- 3) Every Participant responded with "Yes" there is no issue with the surface

Bike Lane 3:

Richards Street Bike Lane

Richards Street between Smithe and Nelson is also very traffic dense as it is used by commuters to connect on to The Cambie Bridge. The one-way street and bike lanes help improve safety for the cyclist by eliminating oncoming traffic. According to the City of Vancouver, this street has seen an increase of 40% since 2008 (2017).

SURVEY RESULTS:

- 1) Every participant responded with "Yes" the space provided is sufficient.
- 2) 3/5 participants responded with "9/10"
- 3) Every Participant responded with "Yes" there is no issue with the surface



Green Signage in Conflict Zones (Intersections)

Discussion

The answers provided by each participant confirmed positive outcomes for each of the bike lanes. There were no significant differences between Nelson Street and Richards Street, however, Cambie Bridge could not compare to Nelson or Richards Street due to it being a shared path for pedestrians and cyclists. When asked if there was adequate spacing in Cambie street, only two participants answered yes while when asked the same question for Nelson Street or Richards Street, all ten participants answered with a yes. Our findings do coincide with the proposal of the Vancouver Government in 2018, with future plans to create a southbound bike lane on the Cambie Bridge. This proposal is to improve user experience addressing the space issues it currently displays (Luymes, 2018). Moreover, there are limitations that must be addressed such as the lack of variability when it came to this subject. Majority of the people's opinions were male-dominated, not allowing much variability as only two women were surveyed out of the fifteen. On a day where the weather was cold and rainy, there can potentially be a lack of people deciding to bike to work or for leisure as they could decide to drive or Skytrain.

With only three questions asked, and none of the questions being open-ended, future research can be done with qualitative questions and with more participants. By providing more open-ended questions, it can lead to more useful answers as the participants are allowed to express themselves more freely and with a stronger voice. Along with involving more participants, you are allowing more information that represents the population rather than a small sample size. The answers provided will then be less likely due to chance.



Cambie Bridge Shared Path

References

Chong, J. (2011, March 19). A Winter Olympic First: Cycling For Transportation Not Driving. Retrieved March 27, 2018, from <https://thirdwavecyclingblog.wordpress.com/2010/01/18/a-winter-olympic-first-cycling-for-transportation-not-driving/>

City of Vancouver. (2017). Transportation Design Guidelines: All Ages and Abilities Cycling Routes. Retrieved from <https://connect.ubc.ca/>

LaClaire, L. City of Vancouver (2018). Cambie Bridge Interim Active Transportation Improvements (Report No. 12293). Vancouver, BC

Luymes, G. (2018, January 11). Exclusive bike lane in cards for Cambie Bridge if council OK's it. Retrieved March 25, 2018, from <http://vancouver.sun.com/news/local-news/exclusive-bike-lane-in-cards-for-cambie-bridge-if-council-oks-it>