

From: [Richard Harlow](#)
To: [Legislative Service Office](#); [Sheryl Armstrong](#); [Zeni Maartman](#)
Subject: Fwd: FW: Protected bike lanes with Transit islands must not go ahead in Nanaimo
Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 10:50:24 AM

In prep for the meeting today I am forwarding this letter to bring this issue to your attention along with two articles. I strongly feel that the committee needs to review these bike lanes for accessibility. The fact there was a human rights tribunal case that made the City of Victoria responsible for putting the safety of blind citizens at risk. I understand bikes are the future and what not, but if we review the bike lanes and avoid islands for pedestrians to catch buses we can avoid any lawsuits or human rights tribunal cases.

[Cycling guidelines need to be revised in wake of tribunal ruling: advocate | Times Colonist](#)

[Nanaimo city council takes second look at \\$1.3-million bike lane, but votes for it again – Nanaimo News Bulletin \(nanaimobulletin.com\)](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

From:
Date: Tue, Apr 6, 2021 at 9:47 AM
Subject: FW: Protected bike lanes with Transit islands must not go ahead in Nanaimo
To: Richard Harlow

From:
Sent: March 6, 2021 6:30 PM
To: mavor.council@nanaimo.ca

Subject: Protected bike lanes with Transit islands must not go ahead in Nanaimo

Dear Mayor & Council

I am a blind resident of Victoria and served as the chair of the Accessibility Working Group (AWG) from September 2015 – October 2020 when the committee was disbanded.

Prior to the completion of the first section of Victoria's protected bike lane network on Pandora Avenue in 2018, the AWG pointed out the safety issues with pedestrians having to cross over the bike lane to and from the bus stop at what we were calling floating bus stops. I am assuming that the transit islands referred to in today's Times Colonist article are the same thing. It may have been too late for changes in design to have been made at that point but Victoria did not heed our concerns and in fact designed and installed yet another floating bus stop after they were fully aware of the safety issues.

As I am certain you are aware, a Human Rights complaint was launched and last November the tribunal decided in favor of the complainant. The remedies have not yet been determined but Victoria tax payers will have to foot the bill. I as a blind person and concerned citizen who gave five years of volunteer service to the City and pointed out the mistake the City was making, now not only cannot safely take the bus in affected areas of Victoria, but I will have to pay for the City's decision to restrict my transportation access.

Blind persons are not against protected bike lanes but the safety of cyclists cannot come at the expense of the safety of blind pedestrians! A Human Rights decision has said so and Nanaimo would be wise to take this into consideration when making design decisions with regards to its proposed protected bike lanes. Those of us who have experienced how little regard there is for our safety when it interferes with a City's plans, will be there to support our peers in Nanaimo.

Regards