



# Comox Valley Cycling Coalition

AGM – March 11, 2021

1. **Strava** – what is it and how is user data helpful to us?
2. **Bikemaps.org** – using an online map to record hazards and near misses for cyclists
3. **E&N Corridor** – update on multi-use trail





# Strava – What is It?

Popular application to track your activities such as cycling, running, hiking, walking, paddling, etc (55 millions users worldwide)

## **2 Main Benefits for Users**

- Training - Track your activities to monitor progress
- Network - Find people who share your activity interest (in this case cycling). Find new routes and riding friends...

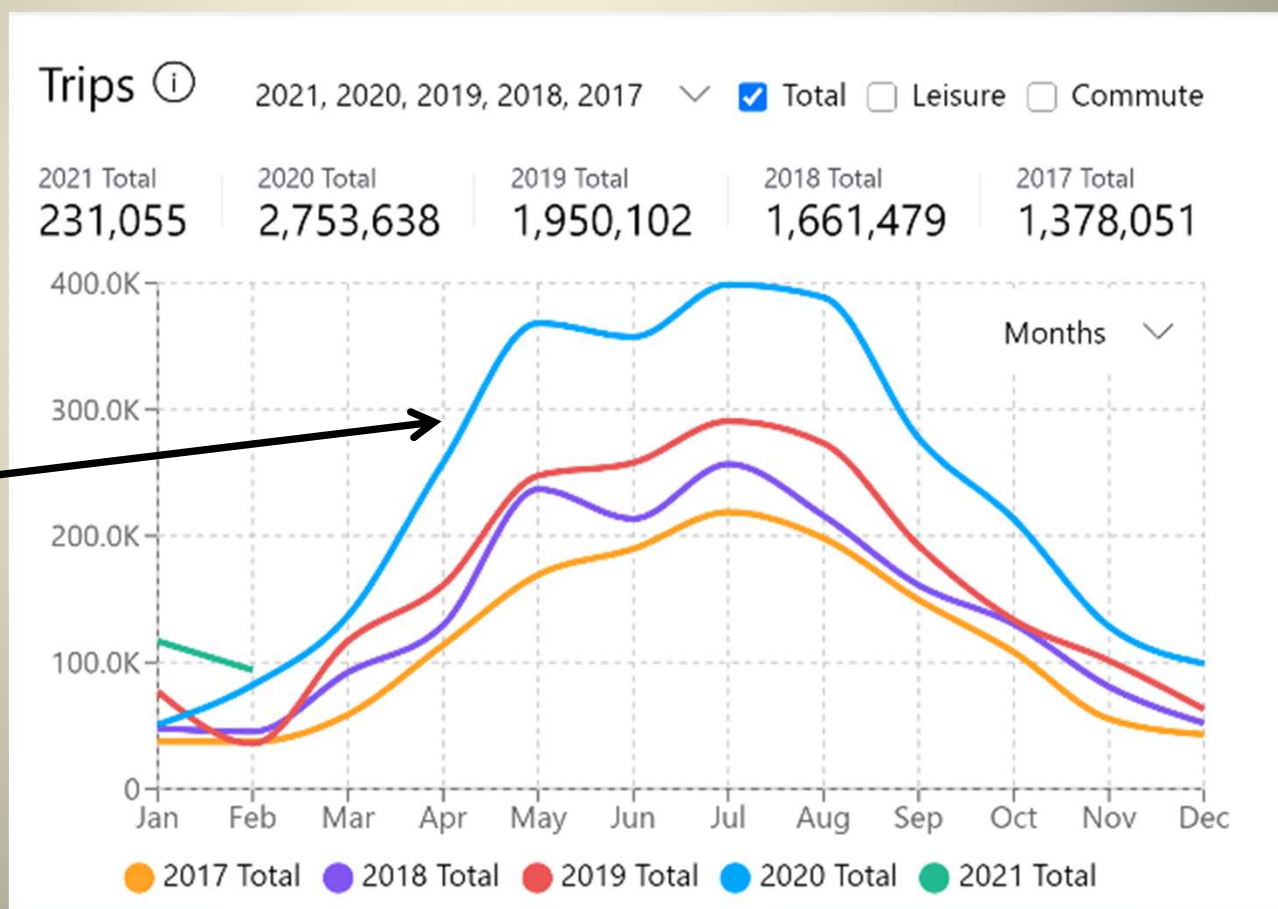
“Facebook for Active People”



# How Is Strava Helping CVCCo?

BC Cycling Coalition has access to high level public data to show trends

Cycling  
increased over  
40% during  
COVID





# “Heat” Maps Show Popular Routes



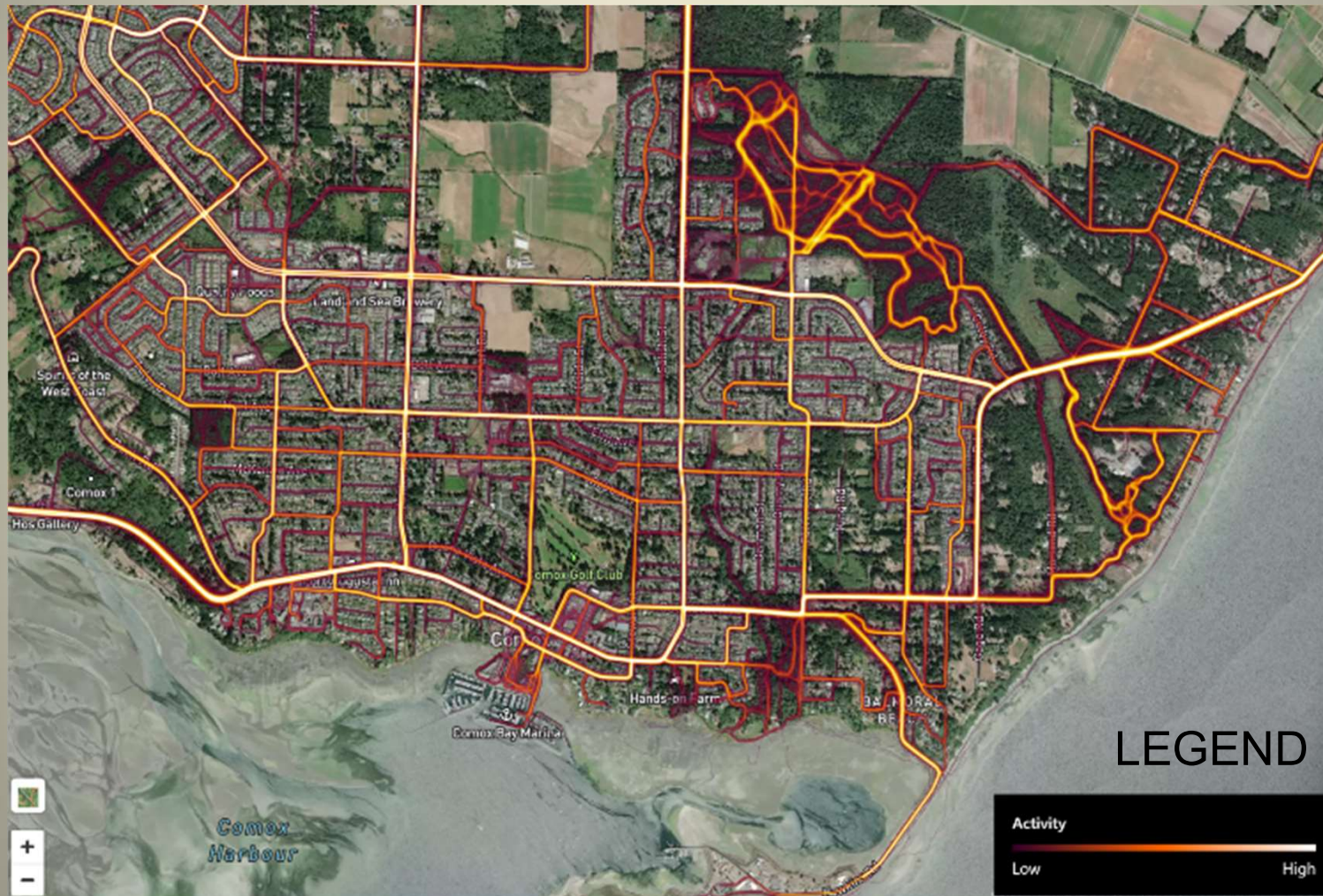
Roads with higher trip counts are in lighter color (white).





# Heat Map for Comox

Roads with higher trip counts are in lighter color (white).

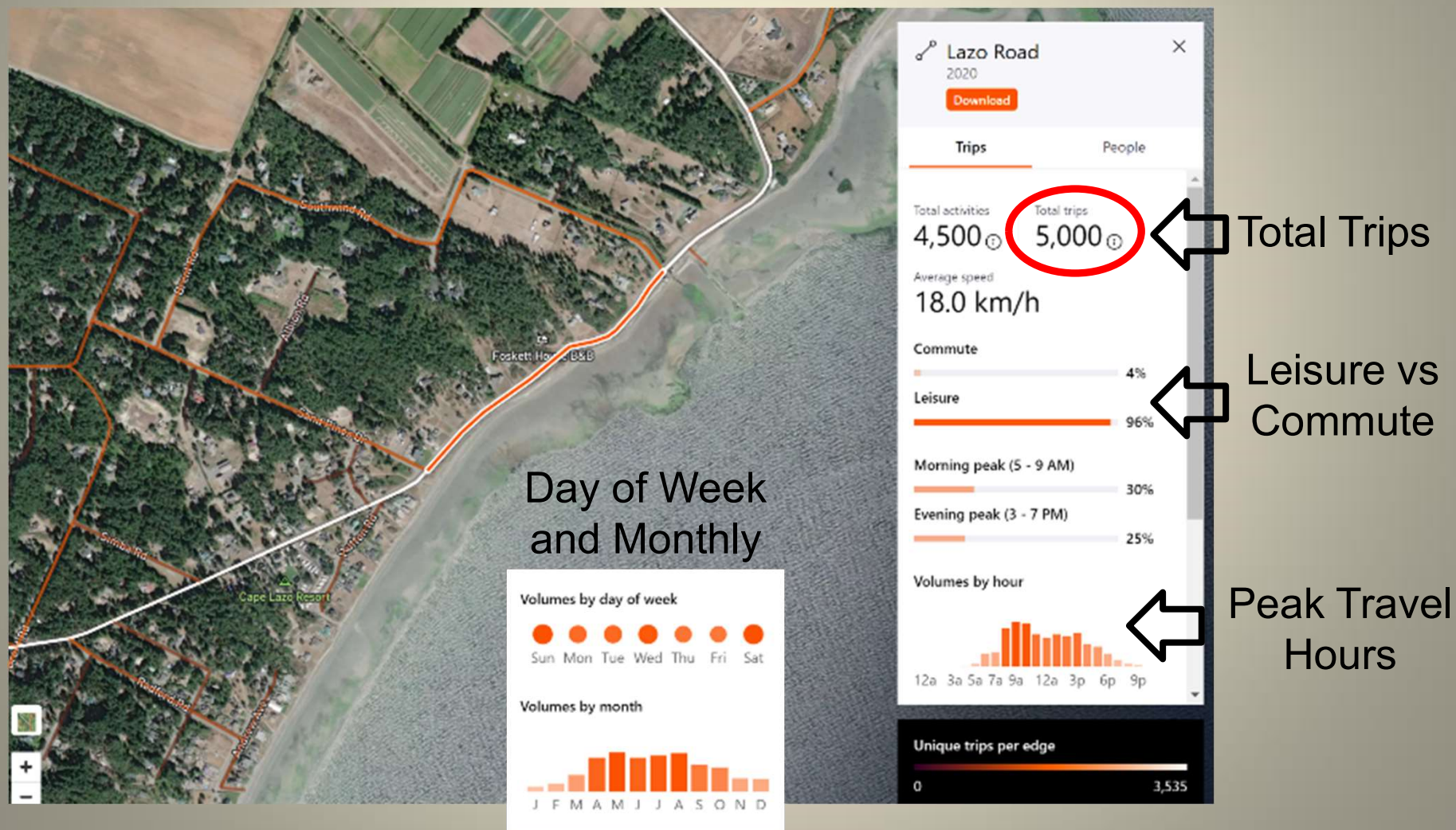




# Cyclist Trends on Roads

Portion of Lazo Road – Cyclist Count for 2020

We can break this down to daily counts if there is enough data







## Limitations of Strava Data

- Only a **small portion** (5%-15%) of the riding population **use Strava**.
- We can do **relative comparisons** but it is not a substitute for machine or in-person user counts
- CVCCo are looking to set up a **system of volunteer bike counts in the valley** to help prioritize where infrastructure is needed and measure how well past construction is being utilized





# Do I Have to Worry About Privacy?

Settings are available to not share your data publicly or to hide your data within a kilometer of home or work.

## How to Get Started

- Download the App for your phone and create a login.
- Check out the **Getting Started With Strava** document on our [www.cyclecv.com](http://www.cyclecv.com) website for step by step instructions (will email the link to members)





# Bikemaps – What is IT?

A cyclist tool to help **map and record:**

- **Collisions**
- **Near Misses**
- **Hazards**
- **New Infrastructure**
- **Alerts**

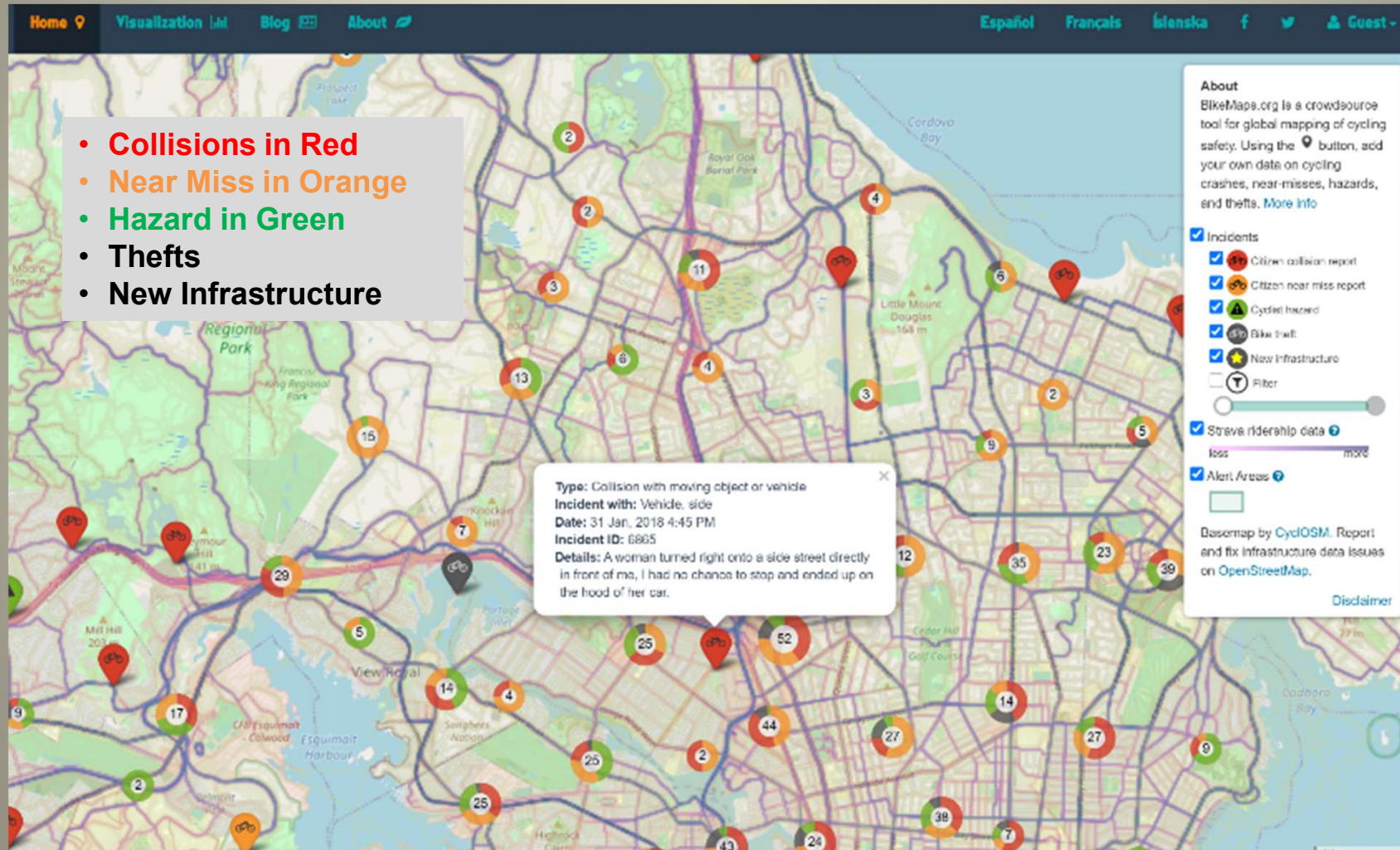
*Less than 30% of car/bike collisions get reported through ICBC.*



# Sample Map (Saenich Area)



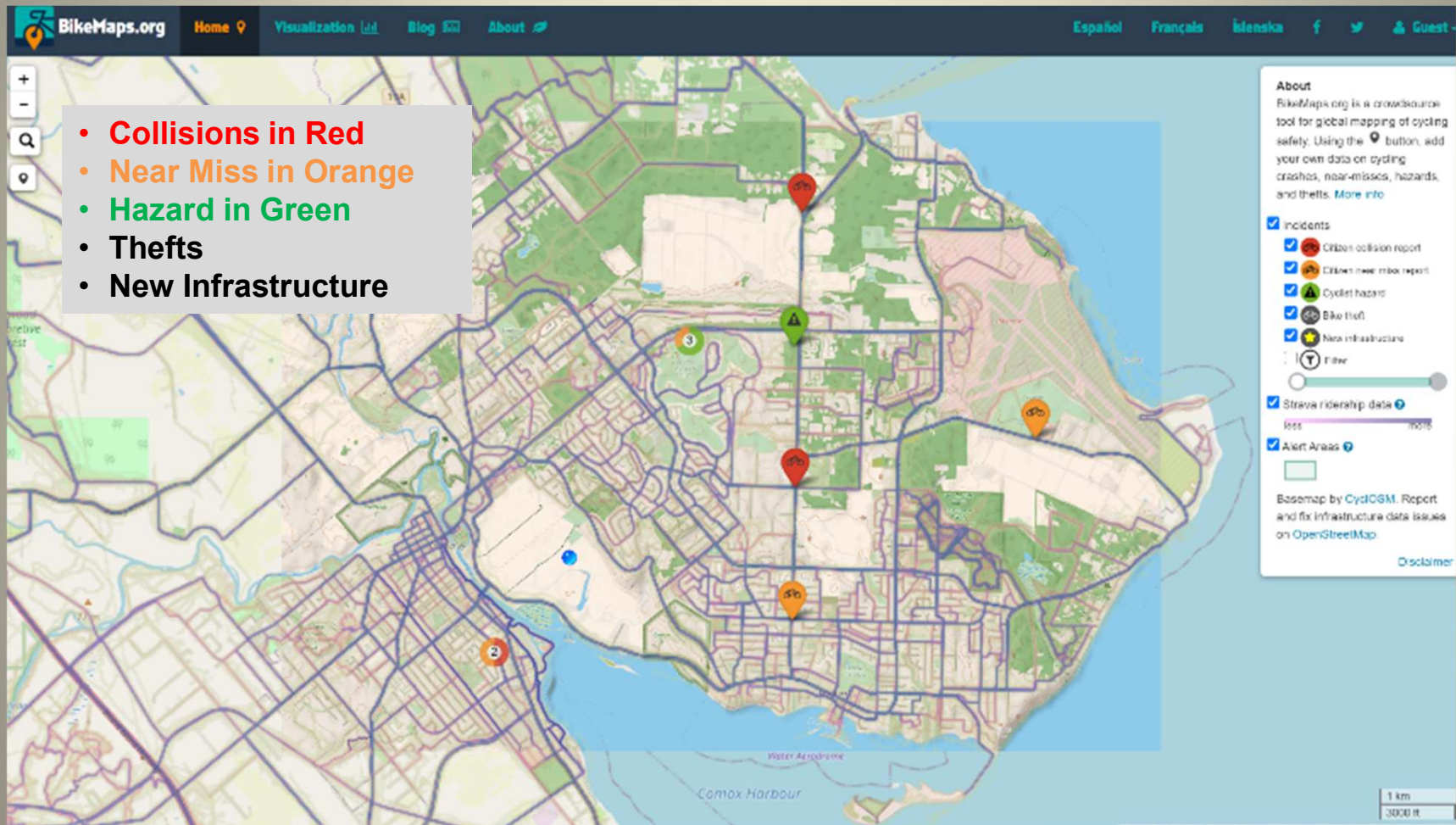
- Collisions in Red
- Near Miss in Orange
- Hazard in Green
- Thefts
- New Infrastructure





# Comox Valley

Only 10 Data Points...



- Collisions in Red
- Near Miss in Orange
- Hazard in Green
- Thefts
- New Infrastructure



# Data Entry



- **Completely anonymous**, no need to create login
- **Simplified form** to enter data for a **report**
- Hope to get **municipalities** to “**buy in**” to track/fix hazards
- Will **help prioritize** where we are having issues

A screenshot of a web form titled "Submit a new report" with a close button (X) in the top right corner. The form asks "What kind of report is this?" and has four tabs: "Collision or Fall" (selected), "Near miss", "Hazard", and "Theft". Below the tabs is a section titled "Collision Details". It contains several questions, each with a dropdown menu: "Were you directly involved in the incident?\*", "When was the incident?\*" (with a calendar icon), "What type of incident was it?\*", "What sort of object did you collide or nearly collide with?\*", "What type of bicycle were you riding?", "Did the incident involve a pedal-assist electric bike (eBike)?", and "Were you injured?\*". The final question, "How did this incident impact your bicycling?\*", is partially visible at the bottom.



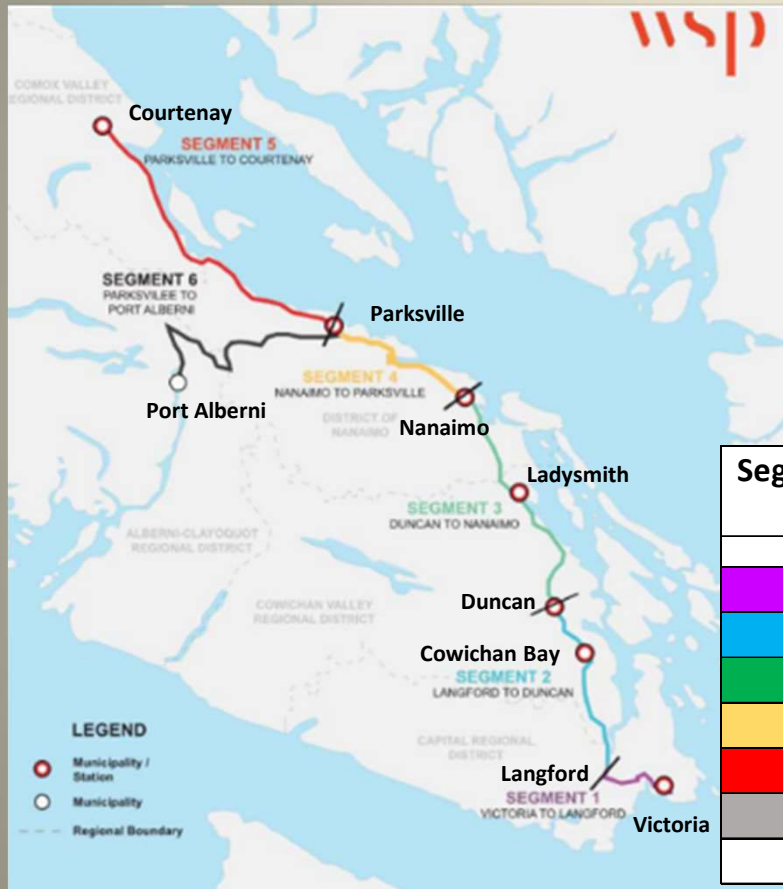
# Moving Forward with Bikemaps.org



- This will require a concerted effort to **get the message out** so that using the site becomes a habit whenever we notice a hazard or are involved in a traffic incident
- CVCCo is working on a plan to **roll out Bikemaps.org to our membership, social media and other avenues** in order to maximize the usefulness
- Push will likely come this summer as we can hopefully have gatherings, events and promotions



# E&N Corridor - Update



- **224km** Rail Corridor from **Victoria to Courtenay**
- Constructed in **late 1800's**
- **64km** spur Parksville to **Port Alberni**
- **5 Regional Districts & 14 First Nations**
- **67 Bridges and Trestles**
- **236 Level Crossings** (112 controlled)
- **No rail usage since 2011 other than minor amount of freight** within 10km of Nanaimo

Segment #	From	To	Length (km)	# of Bridges	# of Crossings
			km		
1	Victoria	Langford	16.2	8	20
2	Langford	Duncan	47.4	13	28
3	Duncan	Nanaimo	52.5	7	61
4	Nanaimo	Parksville	36.3	5	38
5	Parksville	Courtenay	71.2	15	56
6	Parksville	Port Alberni	64.0	19	33
			<b>287.5</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>236</b>

The rail corridor is controlled by the Island Corridor Foundation (“ICF”) who are governed by the 5 Regional Districts and 14 First Nations along the route



# Opposing Visions for E&N Trail

## Island Corridor Foundation (ICF)

- Rehabilitate the railway and build a trail in the right-of-way along the tracks.

## Rail “With” Trail



## Friends of Rail to Trail

[www.FORT-VI.ca](http://www.FORT-VI.ca)

- Salvage rails (\$5 million estimated value) and build trail directly on rail bed

## Rail “To” Trail

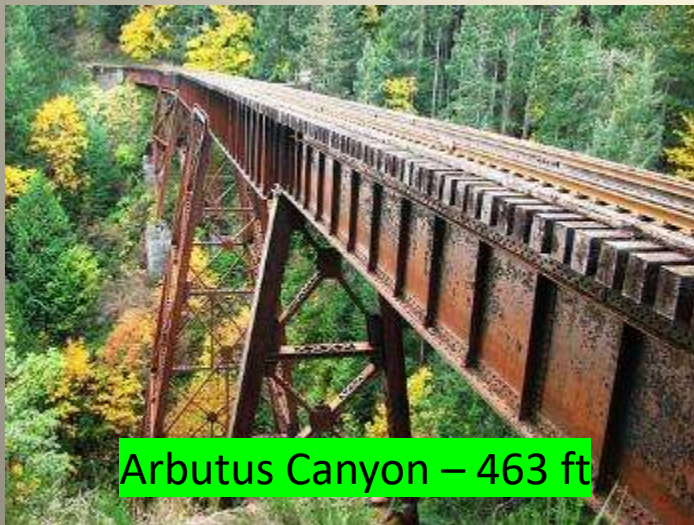




## E&N Corridor - Biggest Opportunity on the Island



- Detailed **MoTI study in April 2020** showed **over \$500 million** is required to **rebuild the rail line from Langford to Courtenay** – plus additional **annual subsidies in the millions** to fund passenger travel
- **Bridges, trestles, tunnels, steep banks and wet areas** all provide **extreme barriers** to constructing an efficient and continuous Active Transportation trail system.





## Courtenay to Langford Section (207km)



	<u>Rail “With” Trail</u>	<u>Rail “To” Trail</u>
Rail Construction	\$513M*	Nil
Trail Construction	<u>\$378M*</u>	<u>\$47M</u>
Total Cost to Taxpayers	<b>\$891M</b>	<b>\$47M</b>
Annual Rail Subsidies	>\$1.5M	✓ Nil
Environmental	GHG, Noise	✓ Natural
First Nations Reconciliation	Legal Actions	✓ Opportunities
Safety	Higher Liability	✓ Quiet and Safe
Connectivity	Disjointed	✓ Continuous
Timing	Wait for \$1B....	✓ Near Term

Converting the corridor to a multi-use trail is **only 5% of the cost to taxpayers** compared to the current ICF Rail With Trail proposal

Rail to Trail **meets BC government goals** in regards to **active transportation, carbon emissions, tourism and reconciliation**

\* Rail costs as per 2020 MoTI Report - Trail costs based on 17km E&N Trail in Victoria at over \$2 million per km

\*\* Rail to Trail costs based on 26km Cowichan Valley Trail at \$100,000 per km plus bridge rehab costs as per MoTI





**Thank You for Supporting the  
Comox Valley Cycling Coalition!**

**[www.cyclecv.com](http://www.cyclecv.com)**