



April 18, 2016

Honourable Glen Murray, M.P.P.
Minister of the Environment and Climate Change
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2T5

Subject: Funding for Cycling Infrastructure

Dear Minister,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Share the Road Cycling Coalition to recommend that the provincial cap and trade program be leveraged to provide \$200 million for cycling infrastructure across Ontario over the next 4 years. This funding commitment will help to achieve the goals set out in *Ontario's Climate Change Strategy*, and also contribute to meeting objectives in the Province's *CycleON Strategy and Action Plan 1.0*.

Road transportation accounts for 27% of carbon emissions in Ontario (David Suzuki Foundation). To meet the greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets outlined in *Ontario's Climate Change Strategy*, the province must look at ways to reduce private automobile travel, especially for trips under 5km. A life cycle analysis of the environmental impact of various modes of transportation concluded that for each passenger kilometer travelled, bikes emit 92% less CO₂ than cars (European Cyclists Federation 2011). Studies have also shown that increasing walking and cycling rates can lead to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions of between 11 to 14% (Maizlish et. al. 2013 and Mason et. al. 2015).

Increasing cycling can play an important role in meeting our climate change goals, but provincial investment is needed to incentivize communities further to make cycling a safer and more convenient mode of transportation. Ontario's daily cycling mode share is currently 1%. An Ontario-wide poll also shows that 4.5% of Ontario residents ride a bike at least monthly and that 54% of Ontario residents want to cycle more than they currently do. Of those, 67% would be encouraged to cycle more if there were more and better cycling infrastructure available (Share the Road, 2014).

There is pent-up demand for cycling in Ontario and a need to provide residents with meaningful transportation options. There is also strong interest among municipalities in building and investing in cycling infrastructure, as demonstrated during the first funding round of the Ontario Municipal Cycling Infrastructure Program, which received 150 applications from municipalities.

Our recommendation of \$200 million for cycling infrastructure represents 0.6% of the province's 10-year capital transportation budget. We believe that this is a necessary investment, especially in the context of provincial objectives to support and promote cycling for all trips under 5km and to become the most bicycle-friendly place in Canada (CycleON: Ontario's Cycling Strategy). Over 4 years, this is also a fair share investment based on cycling's current mode share. And with 68% of Ontarians in support of provincial investments in new cycling infrastructure, the potential to greatly increase cycling and reduce greenhouse gas emissions is significant.

This investment in cycling infrastructure will also complement the investments in public transit being made at both the provincial and federal levels. Cycling plays an important role in promoting public transit, helping Ontarians make the journey to and from the nearest transit stations, making transit more convenient and accessible.

We look forward to working with you to make Ontario a safer, greener and healthier place to live.

Regards,



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Sue Shikaze
Board of Directors, Chair
Share the Road Cycling Coalition

cc. The Honourable Steven Del Duca, Minister of Transportation
Kathryn McGarry, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation
Jared Kolb, Executive Director, Cycle Toronto