



2017 Budget includes a \$50 million investment in cycling infrastructure

Ontario leveraging Climate Change Action Plan to build a more bicycle-friendly province

April 27, 2017 (Toronto, Ontario) – The Share the Road Cycling Coalition (Share the Road) was at Queen's Park today for the release of the 2017 budget, which includes \$50 million for commuter cycling infrastructure.

This investment is being made as part of the Climate Change Action Plan and is aimed at providing safe and low-cost commuting options for residents by enabling people to take their bikes. Over five years, the province plans to invest up to \$225 million in commuter cycling infrastructure.

Earlier this year, Share the Road called on the province to make a \$50 million investment in cycling as part of the 2017 budget. This appeal was launched in partnership with the Waterfront Regeneration Trust, Ontario by Bike and the Greenbelt Foundation and received support from 51 municipal councilors.

"Ontarians want to bike more and we are encouraged to see the province making impactful investments in cycling," says Jamie Stuckless, Executive Director of Share the Road. "Our research tells us that 70% of Ontario residents want to see more cycling infrastructure like bike lanes and trails where they live, and our elected officials are responding to this demand."

In a recent survey of more than 360 cycling stakeholders, provincial funding for cycling infrastructure was the top priority for 82% of respondents. Conducted by Share the Road, this survey also highlighted that we are heading in the right direction with 95% of respondents indicating positive momentum towards a more bicycle-friendly province.

Stuckless is optimistic about the future of cycling in Ontario, but is careful to note that there is still a lot of work to do. "We are working to ensure that every Ontarian feels safe and confident choosing to cycle," says Stuckless. "We are not there yet, however, we are 4 years into the implementation of Ontario's 20-year vision for cycling (CycleON) and progress has been noticeable and ongoing."

This budget follows closely on the heels of Share the Road's 9th Annual Ontario Bike Summit where 285 delegates gathered to share cycling best practices, be inspired and strategize about cycling. As part of the event, delegates heard from The Honourable Steven Del Duca, Minister of Transportation who announced the launch of the draft Provincial Cycling Network for public feedback, and from The Honourable Eleanor McMahon, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, who announced Tour by Bike, Ontario's new cycling tourism plan.

About the Share the Road Cycling Coalition

Share the Road is a provincial non-profit organization working to build a bicycle friendly Ontario. We work in partnership with municipal, provincial and federal governments, the business community, road safety organizations and other non-profits to enhance access for bicyclists on roads and trails, improve safety for all bicyclists and Educate citizens on the value and important of safe bicycling for healthy lifestyles and healthy communities.

For information: Jamie Stuckless, Executive Director (905) 233-2273 ext. 100 jamie@sharetheroad.ca