



## Momentum for Cycling Continues with \$93 million Investment

*Ontario leveraging Climate Change Action Plan to help municipalities build safe spaces for people who bike*

**December 4, 2017 (Toronto, Ontario)** – The Share the Road Cycling Coalition (Share the Road) applauded provincial leaders today for the announcement of a record investment in commuter cycling infrastructure.

This year, Ontario will be investing \$93 million to provide safe and low-cost commuting options for residents by enabling people to ride their bikes. This represents a doubling of the initial investment of \$42.5 million, announced earlier this year.

“Ontarians recognize the benefits of building bicycle communities and we are thrilled to see the province making this investment,” 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.”

Over the past nine years, Share the Road has advocated for provincial investments in cycling infrastructure alongside Mayors, municipal councillors, business leaders and advocates. Most recently we have seen strong municipal support for provincial cycling investments with 12 councils passing motions to urge the province to invest in cycling through the Climate Change Action Plan, and 52 councillors signing a statement of support.

At today’s announcement, the province also revealed how this investment would be put to work in 120 communities from Essex County to Toronto to Thunder Bay. Municipalities of all shapes and sizes will benefit from this dual-stream investment that recognized the unique needs of communities with under 15,000 residents.

“When consulting with our stakeholders we heard loud and clear that smaller communities needed a separate funding stream from larger municipalities that recognized the differences in staff capacity, population density and transportation resources,” says Stuckless. “It is meaningful that the province has acted on these types of recommendations to maximize the impact of funding.”

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, and urges the province to maintain a predictable and sustainable source of funding for municipalities. “We are working to ensure that every Ontarian feels safe and confident choosing to cycle,” says Stuckless. “We still have a lot of work to do, and that work won’t happen without the province as an active partner. We look forward to seeing the impact of this record investment on communities across Ontario and to working with our partners to ensure a strong voice for cycling at Queen’s Park.”

## 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 613-618-8930 [jamie@sharetheroad.ca](mailto:jamie@sharetheroad.ca)