



Bike to the Future
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April 17, 2012

Honourable Ron Lemieux
Minister responsible for Active Transportation
118 Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Dear Minister Lemieux,

Thank you for meeting yesterday with Mark Cohoe, Jason Carter, Janice Lukes and myself. We are pleased to have a Minister responsible for providing leadership within Cabinet and for the Government on Active Transportation issues. We appreciated your affirmation that the Government is committed to promoting and enhancing active transportation in Manitoba. We welcome your invitation to have regular meetings with you and your officials. We were impressed by your openness to such a full and frank dialogue. Thank you.

We are encouraged to hear a working group has been created to identify and coordinate the many departments involved in active transportation initiatives, and understand it takes time to put together a solid plan to move forward. We anticipate hearing announcements in the near future related to an Active Transportation Director and Advisory Group. When these two factors are in place, the many issues related to active transportation will come together far more cohesively.

You understand our serious concerns related to cycling safety. As we discussed, approximately a month ago another cyclist was tragically killed while cycling on the shoulder of a Manitoba highway and wearing a bike helmet. By far, the main cause of fatalities and serious injuries of cyclists and pedestrians comes from being struck by motor vehicles. Changes to the *Highway Traffic Act* and driver education are key to protecting vulnerable road users such as cyclists and pedestrians in Manitoba. To promote the many public benefits of active transportation, the Government must find and implement a variety of ways to give cyclists and pedestrians more protections and places where they can confidently engage in active transportation. We outlined some of the possible solutions in our letter of April 3, 2012.

As Manitoba moves forward to becoming a global multi-modal transportation leader on the world stage, we encourage you to ensure all forms of transportation and connectivity issues are addressed and that Manitoba seeks to be a leader in active transportation as well.

We look forward to good progress over the next few months, continued dialogue, and are keen to get you out cycling on some of the great new pieces of cycling infrastructure now in place!

Sincerely,

Tom McMahon
Co-chair, Bike to the Future

cc. Minister responsible for Healthy Living, Jim Rondeau
Minister responsible for Infrastructure and Transportation, Steve Ashton