



Canada Bikes

1. Forging a National Strategy on Cycling. Countries who develop a strong national cycling strategy see escalating ridership and economic, social and environmental benefits. In detail, what will your party do to develop a national cycling strategy?

When people bike, the whole country benefits. From lower health care costs, to lower emissions, to reduced gridlock, investments in cycling pay off. The federal government has a leadership role to play to encourage people to cycle. This means both providing incentives to cyclists and building safe cycling infrastructure.

The Green Party will make cycling a key part of a comprehensive national transportation strategy.

To facilitate federal leadership in transportation, a [Council of Canadian Governments](#) – representing the provinces, territories, municipalities and Indigenous governments – will meet to draft a comprehensive strategy. The solution for our gaps in transportation infrastructure and accessibility are multi-jurisdictional. Representing all levels of government, the Council of Canadian Governments will be well-equipped to listen to stakeholders and plan a coordinated strategy with adequate funding. A national transportation strategy means planning cities with cyclists in mind, improving cycling infrastructure so that people feel safe, and encouraging cycling.

2. Investing in Safe Infrastructure and programs. Knowing the link between infrastructure and ridership, what will your government do to hasten the construction of national, regional and local networks of protected bicycle infrastructure?

As I've [said](#): "Bicycle infrastructure is critical. One of the things that a lot of great cities across the world have in common is excellent biking infrastructure. In these cities you'll see that bicycling is made not only convenient – but safe. It's a scandal in Canada that cyclists in many cities are taking their lives into their hands to do something good for their health, good for the environment and good for the overall vibrancy of a city. People in cars stuck in traffic jams don't add to the vibrancy of a city.

"We have a large infrastructure deficit for municipalities. Federal funding for infrastructure should include programs that provide funding to municipalities, through the provinces, to enhance bike infrastructure. This is completely appropriate for a federal government to do. Canada is the only country in the OECD without a transportation policy. We need a policy

developed collaboratively between all orders of government: Provincial, territorial, federal, municipal and First Nations.”

We need a national transportation policy and bicycle infrastructure is part of that.

Due to neglect, our massive municipal infrastructure deficit is now estimated at \$123 billion. The federal government must find innovative financing solutions to our infrastructure problems, to ensure Canada reaps the enormous economic and employment benefits that will come with building and maintaining world class infrastructure.

While maintaining the gas tax revenue earmarked for municipalities, the Green Party is committed to dedicating an additional percentage point of GST (\$6.4b) to municipal infrastructure.

Among other things, this will allow municipalities to build safe cycling infrastructure that works for cyclists.

Bonus question: For the love of riding a bicycle. Where did you last ride a bicycle, and what do you love most about it? Bonus question is for fun. Answers will not be evaluated or judged. Leaders who provide an answer will automatically have a bonus point added to their score.

The last time I rode a bike was a stationary bike to create the power for our Vancouver Rally. Here is a picture!

