



3rd Floor - 303 Portage Avenue - Winnipeg, Manitoba - R3B 2B4 - [CanadaBikes.org](http://CanadaBikes.org)

November 9, 2016

The Honourable Marc Garneau  
Minister of Transport  
Parliament of Canada

Dear Minister Garneau,

On behalf of the Board of Canada Bikes, I thank you very much for your establishment of a task force to improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians on Canada's roadways. This is a very important step that we strongly support. We want you and your colleagues to know that we will draw upon all of our available capacity to help.

Our purpose for writing is to request an appropriate contact person and meeting on this particular initiative. We would also like to highlight a few emerging opportunities for the task force.

The purpose of the additional point of contact (a more general contact on Transport Canada programs, policy and strategic direction has already been promised in a meeting prior to this announcement) is to learn more about this task force's work and to look for ways to provide ongoing involvement. As a key stakeholder, we look forward to nuanced discussion and would welcome the chance to consider a more formal role. Such collaboration would help ensure that the work of this task force, alongside Transport Canada's various other programs and initiatives, reaches the right people. We also want to work effectively with Transport Canada to pursue Canada Bikes' other priorities, notably the development of a National Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Fund and the development of a National Cycling Strategy.

Canada Bikes directly represents the interests of tens of thousands of Canadians for whom transportation safety is of utmost importance. Even more importantly, we represent the millions of Canadians who have been awaiting actions such as the one your department has recently taken before they head out into their community on a bicycle. For them, all they ask is to feel safe and comfortable and we know they all applaud this step.

Our organizational members are working every day to build strong intersectoral partnerships in local communities, from Canada's largest cities to its smallest rural communities. Our board of directors represents a deep and broad reservoir of relevant expertise and ties to every province. Our major partners form a network of national organizations and institutions who

stand to benefit from more people cycling. All of the above bring a commitment to both transportation safety and innovation.

We would welcome the added ability to discuss specific policy-related questions and to bring important upcoming opportunities forward to you and your team. For instance, we would like to better understand whether the task force will be looking at recommendations relevant to all vehicles or whether it includes just heavy trucks. It is also worth mentioning that the following 2017 gatherings are uniquely relevant moments for task force members and/or Transport Canada representatives to become involved with some of the world's leading experts on transportation safety as it pertains to persons on foot or riding bicycles:

- the international Winter Cycling Congress in February in Montreal
- the Vision Zero conference in May in New York City
- Velocity, the international cycling conference in June in Nijmegen, Netherlands
- Walk21, the international conference on walking and urbanism happening in September in Calgary

Lastly, I want to offer some well-deserved and heartfelt encouragement. In a meeting I attended in Ottawa on June 2nd 2016 (as part of a tripartite delegation made up of Canada Bikes, the Heart and Stroke Foundation and the Canadian Automobile Association) it was quite clear to me that your staff were enthusiastic at looking for ways to integrate cycling safety into their work and that your tenure as Minister of Transport would be a positive one for cycling in Canada. For this and for this most recent step you have taken, I would like to sincerely thank you, and note, more broadly, that if there is anything we can do to help, just ask.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'As', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Anders Swanson  
Chair, Canada Bikes  
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