



15 March 2019

The Honourable Marc Garneau
Minister of Transportation, Government of Canada
Co-Chair, Council of Ministers of Transportation
marc.garneau@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Lori Carr
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure, Saskatchewan and
Co-Chair, Council of Ministers of Transportation
loricarrmla@sasktel.net

Dear Ministers Carr and Garneau,

Re: Request for meeting to discuss next steps following on the active transportation report by the Council of Ministers Responsible for Transportation and Highway Safety.

The October 2018 report, "Active Transportation: A Survey of Policies, Programs and Experience," prepared by the Council's Transportation and Environment Task Force, identifies a number of implementing initiatives that will help make Canada a global leader in walking, cycling, and other forms of active transportation.¹ On behalf of the undersigned we urgently request a meeting to discuss Transport Canada's plans to move forward in implementing the findings of the report, and how we can all work together to make it happen.

The report is the product of three years of work, 37 conference call meetings, and engagement with 44 key informants Canada-wide. It includes background on activities in jurisdictions nationally and globally – excellent work that needs to be constructively deployed.

The report identifies a wide range of benefits to Canadians from active transportation and enabling infrastructure and policies, including improvements to health and fitness, safer roads for all users, increased social cohesion, GHG emissions reductions, improved air quality, transit success, and reduced congestion. In addition, walk- and bike-friendly communities attract economic investment, boost retail sales, and help employers to attract young, creative employees.

Many of the implementing actions reflect an enhanced federal leadership role, which is also something the Federation of Canadian Municipalities called for in its June 2018 resolution on active transportation (see attached). Actions include the adoption of supportive policies,

¹ <https://comt.ca/english/activetransportation-10-18.pdf>.

sharing of best practices, legislation and regulation, standardization of design guidelines, education and training, promotional campaigns, public education, support for active school travel, infrastructure funding, performance measurement, benchmarks, and targets.

Let's do it!

We the undersigned call on the Council and the Federal Minister of Transportation to develop and share a follow-up plan for implementing the findings of this report and achieving associated health, safety, economic, environmental, and other benefits for the people of Canada.

Further, we propose that stakeholders be included as partners and experts in the process, in collaboration with federal and provincial governments. As recognized in the report, "strategic partnerships" are essential to success. Sectors include industry and professional organizations, municipalities, and a variety of NGOs.

We look forward to meeting with you to discuss in greater detail. Please direct reply c/o Clifford Maynes, Green Communities Canada, cmaynes@greencommunitiescanada.org, 705 745 7479 x 118.

Signed (see below for 20 additional signatories),

Anders Swanson, chair
Vélo Canada Bikes



Jamie Hilland, co-chair
Active School Travel Canada



Clifford Maynes, Executive Director
Green Communities Canada



CC:

Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada

Ginette Pettipas Taylor, Minister of Health

Kelly Block, Conservative Party Critic for Transport

Robert Aubin, New Democratic Party Critic for Transport

Elizabeth May, Leader, Green Party of Canada

John Pearson, Executive Director, Council of Ministers

Supporting signatories

Federation of Canadian Municipalities,
President, Vicki-May Hamm



Canadian Automobile Association,
Ian Jack, Managing Director,
Communications and Government Relations



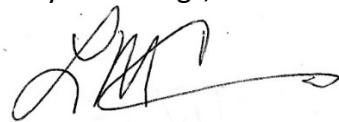
Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada,
Manuel Arango, Director, Health Policy and
Advocacy



Canadian Association of Physicians for the
Environment,
Kim Perrotta, Executive Director



Faith and the Common Good,
Lucy Cummings, Executive Director



Montreal Urban Ecology Centre,
Véronique Fournier, directrice générale



Green Action Centre (Winnipeg)
Tracy Hucul, Executive Director



Canadian Cancer Society,
John Atkinson, Director, Cancer Prevention
and Tobacco Control, Ontario Region



The Lung Association,
Amy Henderson, Associate Director, Public
Policy and Mission



Vélo Québec,
Jean-Francois Pronovost, Vice-President



Outdoor Gear Canada,
David Bowman, President

International Mountain Bicycling
Association Canada,
AJ Strawson, Executive Director



David Suzuki Foundation,
Patricia Lightburn, Manager, Science and
Policy Unit



Diabetes Canada,
Seema Nagpal, Vice President, Science and
Policy



Victoria Transport Policy Institute,
Todd Litman, Executive Director



Cycling Canada,
Matthew Jeffries, Executive Director
Pierre Laflamme, President



Clean Air Partnership
Nancy Smith Lea, Director, The Centre for
Active Transportation



Ecology Action Centre (Halifax)
Kelsey Lane, Sustainable Transportation
Coordinator



Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle
Professionals (APBP)
Melanie Bowzer, Executive Director



Trans Canada Trail
Mathieu Roy, Vice President, Trail
Development and Management



Federation of Canadian Municipalities Resolution

Adopted June 2018, Halifax

<https://data.fcm.ca/home/about-us/corporate-resources/fcm-resolutions.htm?lang=en-CA&resolution=9f03e52c-a569-e811-adbf-005056bc2614&srch=%active%20transportation%&iss=&filt=false>

Federal leadership on active transportation

WHEREAS, Active Transportation is any form of human-powered transport, especially walking and cycling;

WHEREAS, According to the Public Health Agency of Canada, physical activity has been shown to reduce the risk of over 25 chronic conditions, including coronary heart disease, stroke, hypertension, breast cancer, colon cancer, Type 2 diabetes and osteoporosis;

WHEREAS, About one quarter of Canada's GHG emissions come from the transportation sector, Canada has the second highest rate of vehicle-kilometres travelled per person amongst OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) member countries, Canada has committed to reduce GHG emissions by 30% below 2005 levels by 2030, and, according to Canada's December 2017 submission to the United Nations, additional efforts will be required to reach that target;

WHEREAS, Municipalities recognize the social, health, environmental and economic benefits that result when more people walk and cycle;

WHEREAS, Municipalities are integrating pedestrian and cycling infrastructure into long-term transportation and land-use planning, for instance through Complete Streets policies;

WHEREAS, Municipalities, municipal transit authorities and the Canadian Urban Transit

Association (CUTA) recognize the important linkages between public transit and pedestrian and cycling infrastructure as part of integrated transportation networks;

WHEREAS, Municipalities recognize that making it easier and safer for people to walk and bike achieves important social inclusion benefits, especially for low-income Canadians, children, parents, seniors and persons with disabilities;

WHEREAS, Responding to calls from FCM, the federal government's Investing in Canada Plan supports municipal investments in Active Transportation (AT) infrastructure, and greater federal leadership on AT policy will help maximize the benefits of joint federal-municipal investments in the near-term;

WHEREAS, Recognizing that municipal governments are best placed to develop local and regional AT strategies, the federal government has jurisdiction over complementary and enabling policy areas including transportation policy, transportation statistics, health policy and the environment, which can support and scale-up existing municipal efforts; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) call on the Government of Canada to develop and implement a National Active Transportation (AT) Policy that would, at minimum:

- Improve transportation statistics collected by the federal government to assist municipalities more accurately measure mode share and report on progress on local AT strategies;
- Develop and publish AT policy and infrastructure design guidelines for adoption at the provincial/territorial and municipal level;
- Coordinate the roles and responsibilities of relevant federal departments and agencies; and
- Ensure continued long-term federal investment in AT infrastructure.