

April 10, 2017

Hon. Steven Del Duca

Minister of Transportation
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Via Email: sdelduca.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Hon. Charles Sousa

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Hon. Yasir Naqvi

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Hon. Eleanor McMahon

Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport
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Dear Ministers Del Duca, Minister Sousa, Minister Naqvi, and Minister McMahon,

We are writing to you today with the support of the undersigned representatives across Ontario to recommend the Province pursue a new \$50-million investment aimed at cycling infrastructure in 2017. This funding would help maintain the momentum generated by the Ontario Municipal Cycling Infrastructure Program, and be an important step forward towards the goals and vision set out in the CycleON Action Plan.

People cycle in Ontario. According to a survey conducted by Share the Road Coalition, 600,000 people use their bikes daily. Further, 3.8 million Ontarians ride a bike weekly or monthly. A majority of residents say that they would be more likely to ride a bike if their community had more cycling infrastructure and 68% support investments in new cycling infrastructure. There is not only an active cycling community who routinely use bikes as a preferred mode of transportation, but an entire segment of the population who are enthusiastic to take up the activity.

An investment in cycling infrastructure is an investment in safe access to public roads. As our cities and towns continue to become more bike friendly the growing need to effectively and safely integrate cycling into the existing built environment is becoming more apparent. Not only do infrastructure projects such as bike lanes make cycling safer, but as reflected in the polling data, it encourages more people to choose cycling as a mode of transportation. Many studies have shown that the more cyclists there are on a road, the safer that road becomes for cyclists.

Any action which is taken to encourage cycling makes our roads safer and more accessible for all our residents.

Investing in cycling infrastructure is making an investment in our local communities. The economic benefits can be seen in the new industries which have been thriving all across Ontario. What's more, these industries have begun to integrate with another promising sector: cycle tourism. Whether it is in local communities, or outside our city centres, cycling tourism — driven by a local community's embrace of cycling — will play a critical role in fully actualizing the CycleON strategy.

Finally, we respectfully submit that the strategic, robust, and effective application of such investments would have a significant impact in the role that cycling plays in our cities' sustainability. Climate is at the forefront of any discussion on transportation and development. However, the most positive and meaningful impacts are made when individuals do their part. Our residents have made it clear that they want to cycle more; it is now in our hands to further encourage and actualize this desire. As outlined in the CycleON strategy, one out of every three people has a daily, one-way commute of fewer than five kilometres. It is one of the goals outlined in Vision 2033 to make sure, for trips like these, cycling is always a viable, reliable, and safe option. What is seen as an ambitious goal, 20 years in our future, could become a simple reality with strategic and aggressive investment partnerships.

The CycleON action plan 1.0 was the first step that set the strategic direction for Ontario's cycling strategy. From that funding partnership, 37 municipal projects were actioned. The application process created an outpouring of expressions of interest from almost 150 municipalities province-wide, demonstrating both the momentum which this program generated, and the potential of Vision 2033: the potential to make cycling a viable and alternative mode of transportation, to integrate cycling networks across jurisdictions, and to prefigure the definition of "cycle-friendly" as being indicative of an entire province, rather than just a community.

Cycling brings people together: it lets people explore, from downtown cores, to less-taken-roads; it makes people healthier; it gets people places, whether it's to the grocery store, to work, or to the local park; it helps raise money for heart and stroke, multiple sclerosis, vision, and cancer research; and it creates opportunities in new economic sectors, such as bike-share programs, local businesses, or cycling tourism. An investment in cycling infrastructure is much more than an investment in bike lanes and paths, it is an investment in Ontario's future.

On March 6th, Share the Road Cycling Coalition called for the Province to invest \$50 million in cycling infrastructure as part of the 2017 budget. We would like to reiterate this appeal and encourage the Province of Ontario to reaffirm the commitment that has been made to implement a cycling strategy for our province. The bold vision and ambitious goals which have been laid out in Ontario's CycleON strategy define a future in which cycling plays a key role in the sustainability of our environment, the development of new sectors in local economies, and in the lives of our residents. The enthusiasm and passion that OMCIP phase 1 spurred shows

the eagerness and readiness our communities and residents have in taking the next step towards making these goals realities.

We understand that this implementation could only be accomplished after significant consultation with all stakeholders, and look forward to working with you to make Ontario roads safe and accessible to all who wish to use them.

On behalf of the 51 representatives signed below, we are,

Respectively yours,



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Councillor Ted Brown; Ward 2 Councillor, The Town of Halton Hills

Councillor David Chernushenko; Ward 17 Councillor, Capital Ward, The City of Ottawa

Councillor Janet Davis; Ward 31 Councillor, Beaches-East York, The City of Toronto

Councillor Jack Dennison; City and Regional Councillor for Ward 4, The City of Burlington

Councillor Deborah Doherty; Councillor, The Town of Collingwood

Councillor John Edwards; Ramsay Ward Councillor, The Town of Mississippi Mills

Councillor Diane Freeman; Ward 4 Councillor, The City of Waterloo

Councillor Paula Fletcher; Ward 30 Councillor, Toronto-Danforth, The City of Toronto

Councillor Mathieu Fleury; Ward 12 Councillor, Rideau-Vanier, The City of Ottawa

Councillor Jane Fogal; Ward 3 and 4 Regional Councillor, The Town of Halton Hills

Councillor Chris Fonseca; Ward 3 Councillor, The City of Mississauga

Councillor Anne Marie Gillis; Councillor, The City of Sarnia

Mayor Rick Goldring; Mayor of Burlington

Councillor James Gordon; Ward 2 Councillor, The City of Guelph

Councillor Chris Holt; Ward 4 Councillor, The City of Windsor

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Councillor Bob Inglis; Ward 4 Councillor, The Town of Halton Hills

Mayor Dave Jaworsky; Mayor of Waterloo

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Councillor David Kentner; Ward 3 Councillor, The Town of Halton Hills

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Mayor Steve Parish; Mayor of Ajax

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Deputy Mayor Barb Tobin; Deputy Mayor of North Grenville

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Councillor Rick Weaver; Ward 1 Councillor, The City of Brantford

Councillor Brian White; Councillor, The City of Sarina

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Active Transportation Advisory Committee, The City of Welland

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CC.

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