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April 23, 2008

City Council
City of Winnipeg

RE: Support for rapid transit in Winnipeg

Bike to the Future (BttF) supports the Winnipeg Rapid Transit Coalition. We recognize that rapid transit has the potential to produce a portion of the integrated network of bicycle transportation routes that we seek.

Bike to the Future supports rapid transit on the following grounds:

- In general, rapid transit will increase people's use of active transportation
 - The 2005 Rapid Transit Task Force Report recommends that "active transportation commuter paths be integrated into dedicated busways and, where possible, into on-street improvements." Many more people will embrace active transportation once we have bikeways that are
 - **safe.** (For most people this means *segregated from traffic.*)
 - **interconnected** throughout the city.
 - **efficient routes to destinations.** (e.g. work, shopping)
 - People are likely to cycle to a transit stop if planning includes **secure bicycle parking** at rapid transit stations.
- The infrastructure changes needed to accomplish rapid transit have the potential to overcome some of the biggest interconnection "choke point" issues facing the development of a comprehensive network of bike routes (i.e. Confusion Corner, Osborne underpass, Red River crossing, Jubilee underpass)

A City plan and funding will have an amplifying effect from the province.

- If a plan for commencement of rapid transit were put forward by the city now, it would make federal fund matching by the province extremely likely. (This was our impression in discussion with Minister Ashton last week.)

Bike to the Future (BttF) is a voluntary, inclusive group of concerned citizens working to make cycling in Winnipeg a safe, enjoyable, accessible and convenient transportation choice year-round. We envision a city where cycling is embraced as the preferred mode of transportation, where cycling is integrated into urban design and planning, and where Winnipeg is recognized as a leader in cycling infrastructure and programs.

Jeremy Hull
Chair, BttF Provincial Committee

Rob Cosco
Chair, BttF City of Winnipeg Committee

Curt Hull
Treasurer BttF