



Bike to the Future
3rd Floor – 303 Portage Ave.
Winnipeg, MB R3B 2B4
www.biketothefuture.org

December 14, 2011

Honourable Steve Ashton
Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation
Government of Manitoba

Dear Mr. Ashton;

Thank you for meeting with us to discuss active transportation issues.

You reminded us that the Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation does not have the mandate to lead policy and program initiatives related to active transportation. We have therefore written to Premier Selinger to ask that he designate a Minister responsible for active transportation at the earliest opportunity. I have copied you on that letter.

We noted your concern for cyclist safety, the need to reduce the conflict between bicycle riders and other road or sidewalk users, and the problems caused by the speed differences between motor vehicles and cyclists. These are issues that we are working on continuously. While we appreciate the mandate of MPI with respect to road safety, and we are working with them, there are ways that that your ministry can contribute as well, including:

1. Assign a suitable representative to participate actively in the Safety Committee for Active Transportation (SCAT).
2. Develop signs that will educate drivers on how to share the road safely, by allowing “safe passing distance”. I have attached a picture of a sign posted by the National Capital Commission the Gatineau Park on the outskirts of Gatineau, and of a simpler sign used in France. These are good examples of signage that educates drivers about safe passing.
3. Make amendments to the Highway Traffic Act to clarify rules governing position on the road and safe passing to make cycling safer for Manitobans.
4. Develop standards for roadway design in Manitoba which incorporate the best active transportation design standards from other jurisdictions.

We look forward to working with you and your officials to improve the safety and popularity of cycling in Manitoba.

Sincerely,

Charles Feaver
province@biketothefuture.org

For: Bike to the Future Board of Directors

Cc: David Duncan, Clif Evans, Jeremy Hull, Dave Elmore, Mark Cohoe

Att.: Photo appendix



Location: Gatineau Park, Quebec.



Location: regional road, Languedoc, France.