



Bike to the Future
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April 20, 2012

Dear Minister Ashton and Minister Lemieux:

Bike to the Future has read with interest that the Government intends to introduce legislation that would give municipalities the authority to create reduced speed limits in school areas.

Bike to the Future strongly supports the Government's initiative to give municipalities greater flexibility with respect to reducing speed limits and to protecting vulnerable road users such as school children.

Bike to the Future urges the Government to phrase the proposed amendment broadly enough to allow municipalities to create reduced speed limits more generally, and not just limited by legislation to school zones.

For example, municipalities across the country are creating municipal bicycle plans as a sub-category of their official municipal plans, and creating bicycle routes and networks. Municipalities need to be able to designate bicycle routes with lower speed limits, if the municipalities choose to do so.

Further, there is a growing demand for creating safe routes to school. These are to encourage more active transportation for school children; and not simply to create safe automobile drop-off zones or to protect children in the street section immediately adjacent to a school. Please see <http://www.saferoutestoschool.ca/> and www.saferoutestoschool.org.

Giving municipalities the freedom to create reduced speed bicycle routes and safe routes to schools is an essential step to promoting better public health and safety.

Please consider the above when drafting the proposed amendments.

Tom McMahon
Co-Chair, Bike to the Future