

Bike Winnipeg Advocacy Committee Report

September 8, 2015

MPI rate case at the PUB

We have filed two rounds of interrogatories at the hearings through our lawyer Christian Monnin. We got some reasonably useful information in response to the first round, but MPI also dodged some of our questions. We will get answers to the second round on September 9th. The hearing starts on October 5th, where Christian will have the opportunity to cross-examine key MPI executives and witnesses.

We feel that there is sufficient of information on the record to make a strong argument along the following lines:

1. Road fatalities and serious injuries for pedestrians and cyclists are trending upward in Manitoba. Serious injuries and deaths to pedestrians and cyclists represent 20% of all such injuries and deaths in Manitoba in the past five years.
2. Most other jurisdictions focus on **reducing traffic related injuries and deaths**. MPI sets priorities for road safety programs and expenditures on the basis of “loss prevention”, which means on the basis of MPI’s **claims costs**, and the majority of MPI’s claims costs are related to property damage / repair costs. MPI’s claims cost driven economics puts a low priority on reducing death and injury of vulnerable road users.

The outcome we are asking for is for the PUB to tell MPI to focus more road safety effort on reducing injuries and fatalities among “vulnerable road users, and/or an official message to Government that MPI is not financially motivated to focus on these aspects of road safety.

Provincial Road Safety

We have seen clear indications that BW is not likely to be included in the Province’s road safety committee, and that the focus of that cyclist/pedestrian deaths and injuries on the road will be as low priority as they have been to date.

We have therefore launched an e-mail campaign asking BW supporters who have a provincial minister as their MLA to write to that MLA asking that BW and pedestrian organizations to be represented and that the focus of road safety be fatalities and injuries. See attached letter.

The mailing list database has sufficient postal codes to identify half a dozen people in each minister’s riding (or City councillor’s ward). A useful tool. I have received some very encouraging confirmations from supporters who forwarded a personalized version of our message to their MLA.

Here is what one person in Erna Braun’s riding added to the note:

My husband Wayne and I commute to and from work daily on our bikes, totaling over 160 KMs each week. Wayne was recently hit not once, but twice by a texting driver while on his bike. Please help us make cycling safer in Winnipeg!