



January 16, 2017

To Dan Ruimy
Member of Parliament for Maple Ridge-Mission

Re: National Cycling Strategy

Dear Dan,

HUB Cycling is a charitable non-profit organization, whose staff, board, regional advisory committee and ten local volunteer committees represent over 34,000 active contacts and 2,000 members working to improve cycling in Metro Vancouver through action, education and events. We believe that more cycling means healthier, happier, and more connected communities.

HUB works with government organizations at all levels to encourage and suggest improvements to make cycling safer, more convenient and more comfortable for people of all ages and abilities.

Through this letter we would like to express our local Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows committee's support for the private members bill to establish a National Cycling Strategy, as introduced by MP Gord Johns (Courtenay-Alberni) and Alexandre Boulerice (Rosemont-La Petite-Patrie).

A Canadian Cycling strategy can:

- Commit the federal government to clear targets for the expansion of cycling infrastructure
- Encourage more Canadians to choose cycling as their mode of transportation and recreation
- Drive consistency in national safety standard measures
- Strengthen the cycling industry in Canada
- Support education for cyclists, pedestrians, and motorists
- Give Canada another tool with which to meet its climate change objectives
- Provide Canadians with another opportunity to improve their health

The potential for cycling is significant, as we haven't even begun to pick the low-hanging fruit in Canada. A National Strategy to push cycling forward to the next level will help encourage not only the "interested but concerned" segment of the population to use their bikes for some of the short distance trips they make on a daily basis, it will help bring back cycling as a way to get to school for many kids. As the goals of the Strategy continue to be pursued and connectivity improves, more people will continue to choose their bikes as a mode of transportation more often, also for longer trips.

The electric-assist bicycle will undoubtedly prove to be a great, cost-efficient and convenient solution to many as the infrastructure improves, as has shown to be the case in other countries that already have the advantage of good cycling infrastructure. Hills and longer distances are no longer an issue.



Cycling will help support many important goals of governments at all levels, a.o.:

- More people cycling will mean improved health outcomes and lower health care costs.
- Improved infrastructure will mean safer streets. This will lead to a reduction in injuries and deaths from car crashes, leading to, again, reduced health care costs.
- Very importantly, it will mean a decrease in Greenhouse Gas Emissions and less air pollution.
- Reduced congestion.
- Less noise pollution.
- More livable cities.

A well connected cycling network all across Canada should eventually be our goal.

Maple Ridge is working on a Tourism Strategy as we speak. This strategy will focus on the outdoors as our biggest attraction. Therefore, a well connected cycling network is of the essence. Cycle tourism is growing rapidly in North America, and providing significant economic benefits in communities that understand the potential and are able to tap into this market.

Quebec has shown great success with its popular [Route Verte network](#). The revenues from cycle tourism are impressive: Quebec totaled over \$166 million in revenue from tourism in 2000 and \$95.4 million of that was spent by [Route Verte](#) cyclists.

Oregon enjoyed [\\$ 400 million in revenues](#) from cycle tourism in 2012 (4.4% of its total revenue from tourism), a figure that's steadily increasing.

The extensive cycling network that already exists in many countries in Europe, much of it guided by [national cycling strategies](#) shows what is possible. As explained, countries, regions and cities benefit in many ways. The transnational routes ([Eurovelo](#)), national, regional and local bike routes (e.g. [Denmark](#), [Netherlands](#), [Germany](#)) all combine to form the basis of a great active transportation system, both for utilitarian and recreational/tourism purposes.

As the benefits of a National Cycling Strategy are huge, we strongly encourage you and all members of the House of Commons to support this important bill.

Kind regards,

Barry Bellamy, Co-Chair
HUB Cycling
Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Chapter

JC/BB/JL