

E-mail dated Sept. 9, 2018

To Pitt Meadows Mayor and Council

Re: **UBCM Resolution B15: Active Transportation Strategy**

Dear Mayor Becker and Councillors,

Our Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows HUB Cycling Committee is happy to see the above resolution on the agenda for the UBCM Conference this coming week.

The benefits of active transportation for our communities are well known, e.g.:

Health benefits

The British Medical Journal last year published the results of a large study¹ <https://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/357/bmj.j1456.full.pdf> that showed overwhelming evidence that active transportation - especially cycling - has a significant positive impact on public health.

Researchers found that cycling to work was associated with a 41% lower risk of dying overall compared with commuting by car or public transport. Cycle commuters had a 52% lower risk of dying from heart disease and a 40% lower risk of dying from cancer. They also had 46% lower risk of developing heart disease and a 45% lower risk of developing cancer at all.

Equitable transportation for all

A strong commitment to equitable transportation for all benefits especially certain segments of the population that face barriers to physical activity, such as Aboriginal peoples, new immigrants, people with disabilities, and those with low incomes and low levels of education. For many within these groups, the availability of low cost transportation options can also mean the difference between being employed or unemployed.

Vision Zero

Safer roads and improved options for active transportation will help us work towards British Columbia's goal to have the safest roads in North America by 2020: [Moving to Vision Zero: Road Safety Strategy](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/driving-and-transportation/driving/publications/road-safety-strategy-update-vision-zero.pdf). <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/driving-and-transportation/driving/publications/road-safety-strategy-update-vision-zero.pdf>

Climate change: reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

By 2020, the BC Government has committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 33%, compared to 2007 levels. The City of Pitt Meadows continues to do its share to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which includes further improvements to the cycling network to make it safe for all ages and abilities.

A commitment by the Province to establish an Active Transportation Strategy and increased funding will help the City to further work towards its goals of improving safe and convenient active transportation options for its residents, which will at the same time lead to better health, a more equitable transportation system that works for all, fewer road casualties, reduced greenhouse gas emissions as well as other benefits.

We therefore encourage you to vote in favour of resolution B15: Active Transportation Strategy.

Thank you!

Jackie Chow

HUB Cycling

Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Chapter