

Minister of Infrastructure
and Communities



Ministre de l'Infrastructure
et des Collectivités

Ottawa, Canada K1P 0B6

Julie Facchin
Co-Chair, Regional Advisory Committee
Jeff Leigh
Co-Chair, Regional Advisory Committee
HUB Cycling
312 Main Street
Vancouver, British Columbia V6A 2T2

Dear Julie Facchin and Jeff Leigh:

Thank you for your letter of April 7, 2021, providing recommendations for a federal active transportation fund and strategy. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

The \$400-million fund over five years for active transportation that Parliamentary Secretary Andy Fillmore and I announced on March 12, 2021, will help build new and expanded networks of pathways, bike lanes, trails and pedestrian bridges. This is the first federal fund dedicated to building active transportation throughout Canada – powered by people – and part of the Government of Canada's plan to create one million jobs, fight climate change, and build a more sustainable and resilient economy. Investing in pathways and trails for cycling, walking, hybrid e-bikes and scooters, and wheelchairs gives everyone the opportunity to get out, get active, and access public transportation.

The Active Transportation Fund is part of an eight-year, \$14.9-billion public transit investment outlined by Prime Minister Trudeau on February 10, 2021. It will support communities as they build vibrant neighborhoods where people can safely live, work and play. The Fund will also help Canadians living in rural communities and places without active transportation options to unlock the potential in their communities.

Investing in active transportation infrastructure and public transit strengthens communities, helps Canadians get around faster in cleaner and more affordable ways, and ensures good jobs today while charting a path to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. In addition to this new fund, Parliamentary Secretary Fillmore and I also launched stakeholder engagement for Canada's first Active Transportation Strategy on March 12, 2021.

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In recognition of the environmental and public health benefits of active transportation, the Government of Canada has adjusted the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program so that provinces and territories can use federal funding to act quickly on a wider range of more pandemic-resilient infrastructure projects, such as active transportation projects. Under the new COVID-19 Resilience stream, active transportation infrastructure, such as parks, trails, foot bridges, bike lanes and multi-use paths will be eligible for a significantly larger federal cost share.

In addition, the \$31-million Canada Healthy Communities Initiative was announced on August 13, 2020, to support community-led solutions that respond to needs arising from COVID-19 over the next two years. Smaller-scale projects will be eligible for funding under three main themes: creating safe and vibrant public spaces, improving mobility options, and digital solutions. Active transportation infrastructure, such as multi-modal paths, are eligible projects.

Details on the new Active Transportation Fund and active transportation strategy will be shared soon. I would like to thank you for reaching out on this important issue, and for providing valuable insight and recommendations.

Together, we will work to ensure that infrastructure plays a vital role in promoting economic growth, job creation and improving our quality of life in the coming months and years.

Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities