

Monday August 31, 2015

To Chair Crawford and members of Budget Committee,

My name is Jared Kolb and I am Executive Director of Cycle Toronto. Cycle Toronto is diverse a member-supported organization that advocates for a healthy, safe, cycling-friendly city for all. **I am writing to urge you and members of the committee to commit \$20 million to cycling infrastructure to implement a city-wide Minimum Grid by 2018.**

73% of Torontonians say a lack of cycling infrastructure is holding them back from riding more often. A grid of protected bike lanes on main streets supported by a network of bicycle boulevards on residential roadways is a vital way to get Torontonians moving. Ridership rises when biking is easy, safe and comfortable. A study from Portland, Oregon found that more than 60% of people are interested in cycling for transportation but that safety concerns are holding them back. A city-wide Minimum Grid would help that 60% cycle more often, creating a transportation system that is easier, safer, more sustainable, and more fun.

In order to build a city-wide Minimum Grid, however, we must properly fund it. We've completed a comparison between Toronto and Montreal's cycling infrastructure, which provides important insights to building our cycling network. Toronto currently spends \$8 million on cycling infrastructure while Montreal spends \$12.5 million. Considering Toronto has 2.8 million people and Montreal has 1.9 million people, this works out to Toronto spending roughly \$3.07 / person whereas Montreal spends \$6.58 / person.

Montreal's investment in cycling infrastructure has had real impacts on the ground. Montreal has nearly 150 km of cycle tracks (protected bike lanes) while Toronto has less than 10 km. Montreal has more than 300 km of painted bike lanes while Toronto has more than 200 km.

Approximately 2/3rds of Toronto's cycling budget is dedicated towards building Toronto's off road trails system. That investment has led to nearly 300 km of trails built across the city.

In order to build 100 km of cycle tracks and 100 km of bicycle boulevards by 2018, Toronto needs to scale up the cycling budget to \$20 million annually.



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When we fund infrastructure properly, incredible things can happen. Cycle Toronto is fully supportive of Toronto's trail system but we cannot build Toronto's on street and trails infrastructure without scaling up the cycling budget. **We urge members of Budget Committee to increase cycling's annual budget to \$20 million.**

Thank you,



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