



Sudbury Cyclists Union

2019 Provincial Budget Consultations

February 8, 2019

The Honourable Victor Fedeli, Minister of Finance
c/o Budget Secretariat, Toronto

Dear Sir,

I am writing on behalf of the Sudbury Cyclists Union (SCU) to recommend that the Province allocate a portion of provincial 2019 transportation spending (\$50 million) towards cycling infrastructure.

The SCU is a grassroots organization formed in 2010. Our mission is to connect cyclists and improve Greater Sudbury's cycling culture. The SCU is a voice for cyclists of all ages and abilities and we work to promote safe and convenient cycling for everyone in Greater Sudbury. Our over 600 members are recreational and commuter cyclists. For some, cycling is a primary mode of transportation. For others, it's an occasional use. For many, it's something they would like to do more of if there were safer connections to trails already in place and safer cycling infrastructure on our roads.

As someone who was born and raised in North Bay, I'm sure that you can appreciate the unique issues that cyclists face in Northern Ontario, including longer distances between communities, and weather and topography that can be significantly different than Southern Ontario.

The Share the Road Coalition has recently sent you a letter indicating that investing in Active Transportation results in savings in health care and long-term road maintenance costs, reductions in traffic congestion, increased road safety, and development of local tourism jobs. We believe that investing in cycling infrastructure is good for the economy, for the environment, for the health of Ontario residents, and that it is an important strategy for dealing with climate change.

The City of Greater Sudbury has been building more new cycling infrastructure in the past few years, and we are now seeing more cyclists on the road. Our members tell us that they feel safer, that they're likely to bike more often, and that family members and friends who did not bike before are interested in starting to bike. Previous provincial investments in cycling has made it possible for Greater Sudbury to start building a connected, safe, and comfortable cycling network. This has made a significant difference in our community.

Please support our municipalities in leveraging municipal investments in cycling.

Sincerely,

Rachelle Niemela
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