

Email sent February 28, 2020

To all members of Greater Sudbury Council:

On Monday, March 2, a recommendation to proceed with building a section of the Paris/Notre Dame Bikeway is being presented to the Operations Committee. This project is an excellent example of how the City has worked with the community to determine how to implement a critical piece of the cycling network infrastructure that is identified in the Transportation Master Plan. Members of the cycling community met several times with City staff to provide input into this project's preferred infrastructure design, connectivity, and priorities. We believe that this project will be transformational for the City of Greater Sudbury and is an excellent use of the remaining OMCC funding and yearly capital funding that is identified for cycling infrastructure projects.

The City's Strategic Plan identifies the following goals:

- Complete the existing nodes and corridors strategy to ensure that strategic centres and corridors are ready for investment that complements transit and active transportation strategies (2.4)
- The City must continue to invest in active transportation and sustainable transportation, in our parks and trails, and to encourage and support community gatherings and gathering places (6)
- Following review of the feedback report accompanying the City's Bronze award, attain "Silver Bicycle Friendly Community" status from the Share the Road Cycling Coalition. (6.2)

The Strategic Plan also speaks to making Greater Sudbury an attractive, economically competitive place to live and work (1), an attractive place to do business (2), supporting the attraction, integration and retention of a highly skilled workforce (4.1), and launching new initiatives to attract and retain more newcomers (4.7). We need to provide employers and residents an environment that is liveable, progressive, vibrant, and that offers them the amenities that they are seeking. That includes good active transportation options. If we want to compete with other cities that are rapidly expanding their cycling infrastructure, we need to more quickly complete a minimum grid of cycling infrastructure that links neighbourhoods, places of employment, schools, shopping, and other destinations.

Greater Sudbury's draft Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) also has a target of 35% modal share for active transportation. We cannot achieve this goal without encouraging more people to bike.

The best way to encourage more active transportation is to build safe road infrastructure that will be used by cyclists of all ages and all abilities. The Paris/Notre Dame Bikeway, along with other key cycling projects on major roads, will form the spine for a safe cycling network that will get more people on bikes. It will keep people on bikes safe, and will make travelling by bike comfortable and convenient.

Cycling is good for the health of individuals and is good for the environment. According to many scholarly articles, it is an important determinant of health for people of all ages. "Bicycles offer riders exercise, opportunities for freedom and discovery, social interaction, and transportation. What began as a way to show wealth and privilege today is an activity enjoyed by all ages, races, and social classes." (ref: Wheels For All: Addressing Social Determinants of Health One Bicycle at a Time).

We are excited to see this project move forward, and look forward to celebrating the completion of this project.

Thank you for your continued leadership on sustainable transportation.

Rachelle Niemela
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