



June 30, 2022

MPP Jamie West
555 Barrydowne Rd., Unit 4B
Sudbury, ON P3A 3T4

Dear Jamie:

Congratulations on being re-elected to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario! We are looking forward to working with you to support safe cycling in Sudbury. As you know, Bike Sudbury/Vélo Sudbury is a volunteer group that connects cyclists, and advocates for cycling enhancements in the City of Greater Sudbury to make cycling accessible, safe and fun.

Since COVID-19 and with higher gas prices, there are many more cyclists of all ages and abilities using our roads and trails in Greater Sudbury. These include families, seniors, youth, immigrants and refugees, and many others. People bike to work, to school, to shop, and for many other reasons, including the simple joy of biking. Cycling is good for both personal physical and mental health, and for the health of our environment in this era of climate change.

We hope we can work with you to continue supporting these key policy initiatives:

Expanding provincial funding for building more cycling infrastructure: The City of Greater Sudbury has an ambitious plan with its Cycling and Pedestrian Master Plan, but additional funding from higher levels of governments is critical to getting that plan done. With missing connectors and main arterial cycling routes, cyclists in Greater Sudbury currently continue to face challenges in getting to their destination points in a safe manner. As the number of cyclists increase so does the demand for this municipal infrastructure and provincial leadership is needed. Additionally, the Province of Ontario has an ambitious plan through the CycleON Strategy and we are asking that the provincial cycling route on Highway 69 be expedited. Cycling is prohibited on Ontario expressways, including the four-lane sections of Highway 69 south. That means that people cannot bike to southern destinations via this corridor, making places like Killarney, the French River, and southern Ontario destinations inaccessible to us. Now that a new 4-lane section has opened in 2022, the only way to legally bike south is via North Bay.

Extending electric vehicle rebates to all zero emission vehicles: E-bikes and e-cargo bikes are the future of transportation. They are more affordable and efficient than electric cars and should be included in any incentive encouraging increased use of low emission vehicles.

Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE): Greater Sudbury is looking at ASE as a tool to make our communities safer. The Ontario Highway Traffic Act currently restricts ASE to school and community safety zones, even though data suggests that high-speed arterials are where ASE has the most positive impact in reducing serious injuries and deaths. ASE should be allowed on all of our roads and streets.

Bill 54: Vulnerable Road Users Law: Unfortunately, Jessica Bell's on vulnerable road users did not pass before the dissolution of the 42nd parliament. We thank the NDP for supporting this bill, and hope that it will be reintroduced to this session of Parliament. It contains proposals that are critical to keeping people on bikes safe while biking on our roads.

Mandatory cycling education in schools: Bike Sudbury has previously done safe cycling presentations at some local schools, but all youth should receive instruction on how to safely bike, both at the primary level (Grade 5 when many children are biking alone to school) and at the secondary levels (Grade 9 when teens are biking larger distances beyond quiet residential streets).

Mandatory truck side guards on all commercial trucks: In a city where we see many large commercial vehicles, being passed by a truck can be a daunting experience. Many studies show that a significant number of fatal accidents occur at the side of the vehicle.

Developing a Provincial Vision Zero Plan: Traffic deaths and severe injuries are not inevitable on our roads. We all have the right to move safely in our communities, and while some communities have implemented Vision Zero plans, many have not, including Greater Sudbury. Provincial leadership is required to ensure equitable safety for all residents of Ontario.

All provincial highway roads, overpasses and underpasses: Greater Sudbury has a significant number of provincial roads, some in urban areas. These roads should include safe designs for vulnerable road users, such as protected bike lanes.

Legalize the Rolling (Idaho) Stop: Evidence shows that safety improves when stop signs are treated like yield signs for cyclists, and would reduce unnecessary traffic stops.

We look forward to further conversations about how we can work together to make biking in Greater Sudbury safe, and ensure that all residents can use comfortable and accessible, continuous, connected, and equitable cycling routes.

Sincerely,



Rachelle Niemela
Chair, Bike Sudbury
705-822-1276
bikesudbury.ca



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MPP France Gélinas
Hanmer Valley Shopping Plaza
Suite 15
5085 Hwy. 69 N
Hanmer, ON P3P 1P7

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