

Minister of Transport



Ministre des Transports

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0N5

MAY 23 2018

MAYOR'S OFFICE

MAY 30 2018

VICTORIA, B.C.

Her Worship Lisa Helps
Mayor
City of Victoria
Office of the Mayor
1 Centennial Square
Victoria BC V8W 1P6

Dear Madam Mayor:

Thank you for your correspondence of April 10, 2018, regarding Bill C-312 and urging the federal government to establish a national cycling strategy.

At the outset, I should note that while the Government of Canada recognizes the importance of a national cycling strategy, the issue of cycling generally falls under provincial, territorial and municipal—rather than federal—jurisdiction. Indeed, Transport Canada regulates modes of surface transportation that are typically inter-provincial (e.g. rail and bus), whereas cycling primarily occurs within local areas, mostly for commuting and recreational purposes.

Under the *Motor Vehicle Safety Act*, Transport Canada establishes safety requirements for newly manufactured and imported motor vehicles and for certain motor vehicle equipment. Recognizing the importance of an integrated, national approach, my department works closely with provinces/territories and a diverse stakeholder community on a number of road safety initiatives, including measures to better protect vulnerable road users, such as pedestrians and cyclists. For example, in September 2016, Transport Canada and Alberta established a task force to identify potential measures to protect pedestrians and cyclists around heavy vehicles. This task force includes members from all levels of government, industry, and organizations representing pedestrians and cyclists, and has recently completed extensive consultations. Based on these consultations, the task force will finalize a report in June 2018, describing measures to protect vulnerable road users, such as sensors and camera technologies on large vehicles to better detect nearby cyclists/pedestrians.

Nonetheless, the federal government supports cycling through various existing programs and initiatives. In Budget 2017, the Government of Canada announced a historic plan to invest more than \$180 billion in infrastructure over 12 years. Key areas of investment include public transit, green infrastructure, social infrastructure, and infrastructure in rural and northern communities.

Cycling infrastructure is eligible for funding under current Infrastructure Canada programs, which offer flexibility to the provinces and territories to determine priority projects that will make a difference in their respective regions. Cycling infrastructure projects funded through existing programs include the construction of bicycle lanes to support rapid transit extensions, the installation of bicycle racks on city buses to promote the use of sustainable transportation, and the construction and renovation of bicycle paths in many regions across Canada.

Furthermore, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) supports policy and programs that aim to increase physical activity opportunities for Canadians, including through active transportation. The PHAC is also working with provincial and territorial governments on a federal-provincial-territorial policy framework for physical activity that will include the importance of built environments to support physical activity and reduce sedentary behaviour.

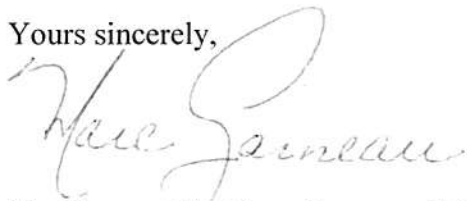
Finally, encouraging cycling as a mode of transportation is consistent with the objectives of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change to support a shift from higher- to lower-emitting modes of transportation and investments in green infrastructure.

Due to provincial, territorial and municipal jurisdiction on this matter, if you have not already done so, you may wish to convey your support for an increased focus on active transport to the Honourable Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure for British Columbia, the Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy for British Columbia, and the Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health for British Columbia.

I have taken the liberty of sharing our exchange of correspondence with my colleagues the Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, and the Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health, so they will be aware of your interest in a national cycling strategy.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Marc Garneau', is written over a light blue circular background.

The Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Transport

c.c. The Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Health

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Ms. Elizabeth May, O.C., M.P.
Saanich–Gulf Islands

Mr. Murray Rankin, M.P.
Victoria

Mr. Randall Garrison, M.P.
Esquimalt–Saanich–Sooke

Ms. Rachel Blaney, M.P.
North Island–Powell River

Mr. Gord Johns, M.P.
Courtenay–Alberni

Mr. Alistair MacGregor, M.P.
Cowichan–Malahat–Langford

Ms. Sheila Malcolmson, M.P.
Nanaimo–Ladysmith