



**October 5, 2021**

**Dear Mayor Helps and Victoria City Council Members,**

**Re. Wheelchair and mobility scooter use on AAA bike and roll routes**

Greater Victoria Acting Together (GVAT) is a coalition of 32 diverse member organizations (faith groups, frontline services, unions, post-secondary student societies and more) representing more than 100,000 people in Greater Victoria and beyond. GVAT is a multi-issue alliance, with teams working on affordable housing, access to mental health and addictions care, and climate justice.

Thank you. We applaud your continued progress in extending the All Ages and Abilities (AAA) bike route network and urge you to accelerate this work. We are also very pleased to see that 24/7 bus lanes are being considered on Douglas Street in Downtown Victoria for BC Transit's Rapid Bus lines.

However, we would like to ensure that Victoria AAA bike and roll routes are truly All Ages and Abilities by designating all AAA bike and roll routes for use by people riding power wheelchairs and mobility scooters (as well as bicycles and skateboards). This is a human rights issue, and must be prioritized above access for other micromobility devices.

We understand that Victoria and the District of Saanich both had communications with the provincial government that led to amendments to the BC Motor Vehicle Act being approved in the Legislature to permit this, starting with pilot projects (amendments that are not yet in force for lack of approved pilot projects).<sup>1</sup>

Please let us know what steps are being taken to ensure that people using wheelchairs and mobility scooters can use AAA bike and roll routes in the City of Victoria.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jane Welton'.

Jane Welton

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Eric Doherty'.

Eric Doherty

Co-Leads, Climate Justice Action Research Team, Greater Victoria Acting Together

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<sup>1</sup> Bill 35 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No. 2), 2019. Part 9 – Transportation and Infrastructure Amendments.