



October 14, 2021

Dear Mayor Helps and Victoria City Council Members,

Re: Power chair and mobility scooter use on AAA bike and roll routes.

The Action Committee of People with Disabilities is a non-profit society committed to the empowerment, social inclusion, and economic equity for People with Disabilities. We are advocates for people with disabilities.

Bike lanes bring a great alternative to navigating the obstructive sidewalks through the city of Victoria. Sometimes the sidewalks can be too narrow and rough for power chairs and scooters and can be inaccessible. Our President has used the bike lanes in the past in order to avoid the bumps and roughness.

Bike lanes provide alternative smooth access and convenience for getting to appointments, picking up groceries and attending other day to day activities that many take for granted. The use of the bike lanes also provides a recreational activity and enhances the quality of people's lives.

There are not many access alternatives for navigating around the city. Transportation by bus (a bus pass costs a person on the provincial disability benefit \$50 per month) and Handy Dart (costs \$2.50 each way). This is costly considering the provincial disability benefit is only \$1356 per month.

Oftentimes trips on Handy Dart must be booked 2 weeks ahead. Also, it can be challenging getting to bus stops and on to the Handy Dart. This can be very inconvenient for someone who just wants to get out of the house for some fresh air or pick up a few things for dinner. This way, people can access the beauty of Victoria on their own time and at their leisure 24 hours per day.

The Action Committee of People with Disabilities is always supportive of any idea that is inclusive and improves the quality of life of People with Disabilities.

Sincerely,

Shannon Soroka

Board Secretary