



The Honourable John Horgan
Premier
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

November 29, 2017

Dear Premier Horgan:

On behalf of Victoria Council, I am writing to request that the Province of BC consider changing the Motor Vehicle Act's position on the use of wheelchairs and mobility scooters in protected bike lanes. Under the Motor Vehicle Act, people using motorized scooters or wheelchairs are currently defined as pedestrians and are currently prohibited from travelling on the roadway where there is a sidewalk.

The City of Victoria Active Transportation Advisory Committee is made up of community representatives who provide strategic advice, ideas and support to increase the number of people who walk, cycle, take public transit and use shared mobility services. Earlier this year committee members expressed a desire to pilot a trial that would allow mobility scooters and wheelchairs to travel on designated All Ages and Abilities (AAA) cycling facilities.

Victoria is one of many municipalities across BC that is working towards achieving community health, economic development and climate action goals by making investments in new cycling infrastructure such as protected bicycle lanes. Mobility scooter use is anticipated to increase with an aging population and improving travel options for electric wheelchair and mobility scooters may help support accessibility and transportation objectives, if done safely and effectively.

Under the Motor Vehicle Act, people using motorized scooters or wheelchairs are defined as pedestrians and are currently prohibited from travelling on the roadway where there is a sidewalk.

The City would like to request that the Province evaluate the risks and opportunities associated with any change to the Motor Vehicle Act for this purpose, and would welcome your review and comment on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Helps'.

Lisa Helps
Victoria Mayor

cc. Honorable Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

1 Centennial Square Victoria British Columbia Canada V8W 1P6

Telephone (250) 361-0200 Fax (250) 361-0348 Email mayor@victoria.ca