

## **Council Member Motion**For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of 08 February 2024

To: Committee of the Whole Date: 08 February 2024

From: Councillor Matt Dell and Councillor Jeremy Caradonna

Subject: Redeclaring Victoria the "Cycling Capital of Canada."

## **BACKGROUND**

The City declared itself the cycling capital of Canada in the year 2000, so this non-binding resolution is, in fact, a redeclaration. Victoria is the premier city for cycling in Canada, and one of the most bike-friendly cities in North America.

In recent years, Victoria has rapidly expanded its cycling network, including the completion, in 2023, of the first phase of its 32-km All Ages and Abilities (AAA) cycling network, featuring lanes on Pandora Avenue, the Johnson Street Bridge, Fort Street, Wharf Street, Humboldt Street, Harbour Road, Dallas Road, Government Street, and Vancouver Street.

In addition to the bike and roll lane network managed by the City, Victoria is also part of the regional cycling network that includes the Galloping Goose and Lochside Trail (a combined 88 km of former rail lines) and the E&N trail (17 km).

The city has a total of 92.5 km of cycling facilities. Currently, 95% of Victorians live within 500 m of a AAA cycling route.

The expansion of cycling facilities in and around Victoria has reduced congestion, advanced the City's climate goals, supported active transportation and livability, and enabled a car-lite city. The network supports not only traditional bicycles, but also a growing number of e-bikes, scooters, mobility scooters, and other forms of micro-mobility.

Statistics Canada found that Victoria has the highest percentage of people who cycle to work in the entire country (5.3%). (Victoria also has the second-highest proportion of commuters who walk to work downtown.) According to the Victoria Transport Policy Institute, the Stats Can statistics leave out quite a lot, including cycling trips that involve buses, as well as non-commuting trips, such as errands, trips to schools, and recreational riding.

According to city and CRD statistics, 13% of all resident trips in 2022 were completed on a bicycle, compared with 9% in 2017 (source: CRD Origin and Destination Household Travel Survey

and bicycle count data from locations across the city's cycling network.)

The municipal government supports cycling in diverse ways, including by funding bike valet services that are free to users, by installing safe bicycle parking, by granting funds to cycling-related festivals and organizations, and by supporting cycling parades and events.

Readers of Conde Nast (520,000 voters) recently rated Victoria the best small city in the world. Tourists and visitors are attracted to Victoria in part for its eco-tourism, including access to the region's cycling network. Indeed, the many bike retail shops, bike repair shops, and bike rental shops support not only local cyclists, but also Victoria's tens of thousands of tourists and visitors.

The purpose of this redeclaration is not only to celebrate the City's successes, but also to recommit to the continued expansion of the bike lane network and other supports for a cycling-friendly city. There is more work to accomplish on the journey to a livable, low-carbon city.



## **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council redeclare Victoria the "Cycling Capital of Canada'; that the City re-commit to an ongoing expansion of AAA cycling infrastructure; and that the City commit to increasing the percentage of people who use micro-mobility to get to school or work.

Respectfully submitted,

Coun. Jeremy Caradonna

Coun. Matt Dell