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Cc: [Katherine.Kirby@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Katherine.Kirby@gov.bc.ca), [action@bikehub.ca](mailto:action@bikehub.ca),

November 23, 2017

Re: Modernizing the BC Motor Vehicle Act

The City of Victoria supports the BC government's "Vision Zero" plan to make BC's roads the safest in North America and eliminate road-related injuries and deaths by 2020. We believe roads must be made safer for vulnerable road users—including people of all ages, walking and biking.

To accomplish this, we support modernizing British Columbia's traffic legislation, the Motor Vehicle Act (MVA). As its name suggests, the Act was written with motorists in mind. The MVA was passed in 1957 and has changed surprisingly little since, despite dramatic changes in our transportation infrastructure, vehicles and usage. Changes to the Act are required if BC is to meet its "Vision Zero" road safety targets.

Decades' worth of evidence has shown that cyclists and other vulnerable road users are not adequately protected by the nearly 60-year-old Act. The transportation environment has evolved since 1957 with significant growth in cycling for transportation.

With reform either recently completed or imminent in Canada's two most populous provinces—Ontario and Quebec—British Columbia is falling behind and has an opportunity to use the research and experience of its peer provinces to expedite changes. To achieve the safest roads in North America, BC too will need to align its laws with recommended cycling practices and promote behaviours that reduce collisions, injury and death.

The BC Road Safety Law Reform Group has made 26 recommendations for improvement in their [Position Paper to Modernize the BC Motor Vehicle Act](#). These include safe passing distances and safe neighbourhood speeds.

Opening the Motor Vehicle Act up for review is crucial for preventing vulnerable road user serious injury and death, providing justice for those impacted in road collisions, and removing barriers for cycling in BC.

Sincerely,

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Lisa Helps  
Mayor, City of Victoria