



For the Committee of the Whole Meeting March 1 2018

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**Date:** Friday February 23 2018

**From:** Mayor Helps

**Subject:** National Cycling Strategy

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## **Background**

As laid out in the attached backgrounder, a national cycling strategy is a consultatively written plan to achieve the overall goal of more cycling. It is evidence-based, includes financial implications and results in a set of policies, guidelines and actions. A Canadian cycling strategy will guide all levels of government and partners as they work to improve conditions for cycling across the country.

Typically, a federal government agency (such as Transport Canada) will lead and coordinate the development of such a strategy on behalf of the federal government with input and resources from relevant internal and external stakeholders including other federal government agencies (such as Health, Environment, Sport, and Infrastructure ) provinces, municipalities, NGOs, research institutions, industry groups, cycling advocates and community organizations.

Canada faces many critical challenges in the next few years including soaring health care and infrastructure costs, CAC and GHG emissions, and traffic congestion. Reliable research has shown that increasing cycling mode share delivers significant savings and positive returns unmatched by any other type of government spending. Nothing else eliminates pollution and emissions while increasing worker productivity, longevity and well being at such a low cost. Cycling is a sustainable solution to transportation that brings substantial benefits for society and across multiple ministries.

With the right infrastructure and programming support, cycling can occur anywhere and in any weather. If a national cycling strategy, which can include walking and other active modes of transportation, is not specifically identified and implemented, experience has shown that cycling falls through the policy and funding cracks and remains neglected. The opportunity for improvement is too great and the costs of doing nothing are too high for Canada not to embark on a National Cycling Strategy.

## **Recommendation**

1. That Council request that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities advocate to the Federal government to create a National Cycling Strategy and that the FCM work to build a knowledge framework and set of tools to inform a national process to advance cycling and active transportation across Canada.
2. That Council forward this motion to the March FCM Board Meeting for consideration.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

  
Mayor Helps