



**GREATER VICTORIA  
CYCLING  
COALITION**

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Victoria, B.C. V8W 3S2

Dear Mayor and City Council,

The Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition is strongly supportive of Biketoria and the larger goal of establishing a comprehensive All Ages and Abilities bicycle network throughout the city of Victoria. We are excited to see the implementation of the proposed plan beginning this spring, but are concerned that progress may be delayed. The Jan 21st Public Engagement Report before you proposes additional consultation. However, after nearly two years of extensive consultation, over multiple phases, it is time to keep moving.

As Biketoria moves closer to implementation, we understand why concerns are being raised by some businesses and voices in the community. The City can help reduce these concerns by providing clear information about the social and economic benefits of quality bicycle facilities and how they fit into the city's larger planning context: outlines of existing municipal policies, OCP goals and objectives that have long supported investments and priorities on cycling and related initiatives.

#### **Victoria keeps asking for better bicycle facilities**

For many years, Victoria residents have been looking for better, safer and more comfortable bicycle facilities. Over the past two years, the City has engaged thousands of residents via surveys and open houses as it has updated its 1995 plan. Hundreds more responded in the City's 2015 budget consultation, with bicycle investments making the top of the priority list. Similar results were found during the Official Community Plan process in 2012. The message has been consistent and clear: Victoria residents want comfortable routes and safe corridors to ride their bikes with their families, friends and co-workers. *Further consultations should not drift into inaction or delay.*

#### **A complete network is more than the sum of its parts**

Biketoria is intended as the start of a complete All Ages and Abilities (AAA) network. The plan is best conceived and built as a single piece. As the City of Calgary showed, building a complete network all at once can significantly increase the number of people biking. As the current piecemeal approach has shown, individual routes are less successful on their own.

#### **Use pilot projects to allow flexibility**

The City of Victoria should follow the lead of many other cities by using pilot projects and temporary route designs as a means of consultation and public engagement. Pilot projects can get the complete network built faster, and still alleviate neighbourhood concerns by allowing greater flexibility after construction. Small changes can be made and adjusted easily and quickly, whether that is loading zones for businesses or providing more protection for those riding bikes.

Finally, we reiterate the need to keep moving on Biketoria, for time is ticking away to achieve our goals of making Victoria the best small city for biking by 2018. We look forward to helping the city meet its goals in any way we can.

Yours,

Edward Pullman  
President, Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition