



PROMOTING pathways FOR WALKING AND CYCLING IN NORFOLK

October 21, 2013

Honorable Glen Murray

Minister of Transportation
3rd Floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley St. West
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8

Dear Minister Murray

Re: Implementing #CycleON: Ontario's Cycling Strategy

Norfolk Pathways for People is a community coalition that advocates for the development and improvement of connected pathways in Norfolk County. We also promote the regular use of trails, sidewalks and roadways for health, recreation and active transportation. Norfolk Pathways for People congratulates you and the Ministry of Transportation on the recent release of a new cycling strategy for Ontario, #CycleON.

We were recently made aware of the Beginner Driver Education Curriculum Study¹ completed by the Ontario Public Health Association with respect to teaching new drivers about safely sharing the road with cyclists (STRC). We support the recommendations from the research findings, namely:

1. That there be mandatory cycling content in the MTO's Beginner Driver Education (BDE) Curriculum Standards
2. That all MTO-approved BDE Educators receive regular consistent professional development training
3. That there be accurate and consistent STRC resources for BDE educators to use as additional teaching tools

The study presents a strong, evidence-based case for moving forward with these recommendations, and presents the MTO with the opportunity to take immediate action on one of the strategic directions identified in #CycleON: Safer Highways and Streets. In particular, recommendations 1 and 3 are actions that can have a direct impact on the education of road users.

We recognize the value of encouraging more people to ride their bikes as a way to get more physical activity and promote better health. It is also critical that cyclists of all ages have the skills and places to ride safely. Survey findings among driver training centres indicated that a majority (95%) of BDE schools

recognized a need for teaching STRC information to new drivers. #CycleON is an important step in making the province and our communities more bicycle-friendly. We look forward to your Ministry's and government's actions to make the vision a reality.

Sincerely,

Dave Challen, Member of Norfolk Pathways for People

c. MPP Haldimand-Norfolk Toby Barrett
Norfolk Mayor and Council

ⁱ For a copy of the Beginner Driver Education Curriculum Study visit <http://opha.on.ca/What-We-Do/Workgroups/Built-Environment.aspx>