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

May 24, 2012

To the Attention of the Honourable Bob Chiarelli,

I represent Norfolk Pathways for People and much of our work focuses on promoting the need for sustainable built environments that support active transportation. Environments that allow for safe walking and cycling go a long way in promoting the health of Ontarians and the environment. But in order for Ontarians to safely walk and cycle, there is much work to be done to create physical and social environments conducive to these activities.

As the population of Ontario continues to grow, there is increasing interaction between road users and a greater need to educate people how to interact respectfully with one another. While much work can be and is done at a local level, there are some ways in which we look to the province to take a leadership role. One area of focus is increasing driver awareness of the rules of the road and how to safely share the road with other user groups, particularly cyclists.

There are two ways in which the province can address this issue. One is by making changes to the Driver's Handbook and to include more information about how to share the road safely. Another venue for reaching new drivers is to modify the curriculum in driver training programs to ensure that drivers are taught proper procedures for sharing the roads with cyclists. Reaching drivers early in the learning process will help to foster an understanding of roads as resources for a variety of uses, shifting a transportation culture that generally views roads as for cars only.

We would like to see your Ministry make these issues a priority and to make strides to increase driver awareness of sharing the road. We understand that the Ontario Public Health Association's Built Environment working group has been working diligently on this matter and has assembled and shared a number of recommendations for your Ministry's consideration. We support these recommendations and believe that reaching new drivers with this vital information can have a great impact on the attitudes of drivers and the future use of our roads.

Should you want to discuss further, please contact Sue Shikaze (Co-chair, OPHA Health and the Built Environment) at [sshikaze@hkpr.on.ca](mailto:sshikaze@hkpr.on.ca) or 705-457-1391 x 249.

Norfolk Pathways for People is a community coalition, supported by the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit, and made up of volunteers from community members, Public Health and Community Services Department. Pathways for People is a member of the Norfolk County Trails Advisory Committee.

Our mission is to promote pathways for walking and cycling in Norfolk County for health, recreation and active transportation.

Our objectives include:

- Advocating for new and improved trails and pathways in Norfolk County.
- Building a healthier, accessible and connected community.
- Promoting the safe use of local trails and pathways.
- Providing input to the Norfolk County Trails Advisory Committee.

Sincerely,

Gord Mason  
Pathways for People member  
[www.norfolkpathways.ca](http://www.norfolkpathways.ca)



Health Action is funded by the Ministry of Health Promotion and supported by the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit. Health Action partners with 30 individuals and organizations, and promotes integration, communication and support environments that encourage people in our communities to live healthy lives.