

December 13, 2016

Mayor and Council  
City of Whitehorse  
2121 Second Avenue  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Y1A 1C2

**Re: Proposal for Development of Cycling Master Plan for City of Whitehorse**

In the early 2000's the City of Whitehorse made great strides towards sustainable transportation with the development and implementation of its Active Transportation Showcase. However, the City has since stalled and is no longer a leader when it comes to cycling and other sustainable modes of transportation. The Whitehorse Urban Cycling Coalition (WUCC) would like to work with the City to develop a Cycling Master Plan.

Over the last decade, the role of cycling as a mainstream mode of transportation for communities has grown significantly throughout North America. State-of-the-art practices for accommodating all transportation users, in particular cyclists, have changed considerably. Building separated cycling infrastructure creates significant increases in the number of people who choose cycling for day-to-day transportation. Experience around the globe has proven this unequivocally. And increasing the cycling mode-share has been demonstrated to provide meaningful financial, economic and social benefits for communities.

Although the City's Transportation Demand Management Plan (TDMP) was written in 2014, we have seen little progress has been made with respect to implementing the cycling portion of the plan. Whitehorse has fallen behind other progressive cities in Canada in this regard.

The WUCC believes there is a lack of a long-range, overall vision for cycling and cycling infrastructure in Whitehorse. Accordingly, we are offering to partner with the City to jointly develop a Cycling Master Plan for Whitehorse. The purpose of such a plan would be to develop a long-range strategy for a comprehensive, connected cycling network, much of which would be accessible to all ages and abilities. The benefit for the City would be a "road-map" for incorporating cycling facilities when streets and other infrastructure is re-built in the City. This would create the opportunity for the network to be developed in a cost-effective manner, incrementally as infrastructure renewal occurs.

Partnering with WUCC in the development of such a Cycling Master Plan would be an effective way for the City of Whitehorse to make progress in achieving its transportation related sustainability goals. This is for two reasons:

1. WUCC members, as committed stakeholders, have the best, first hand knowledge of the cycling infrastructure needs and deficiencies in the City; and
2. Partnering with WUCC in the development of the plan will be a cost effective way to develop the Plan because WUCC is offering to do much of the work in the plan development at no cost.

According to the Whitehorse Sustainability Plan, the City's progress towards Sustainable Transportation and GHG Reduction has been fair to poor. The development and implementation of a Cycling Master Plan would provide the City with a tool to help make progress towards achieving these goals. A Cycling Master Plan would demonstrate commitment to implementation of both the policies in the Official Community Plan and the Transportation Demand Management Plan.

The Whitehorse Urban Cycling Coalition continues to look forward to being the City's partner in building a healthier, more vibrant and equitable community. We trust that this proposal will help the City advance our shared community goals and we would be pleased to discuss this further with you at your earliest convenience.