

June 30th Handoff - Greater Strides – Taking Action on Active Transportation

On behalf of the Provincial Active Transportation Advisory Group, the people who worked to assemble this report, Mark Cohoe, Tim Deacon, Pat Locken, Anders Swanson, Russell Wychreschuk and Terry Zdan, I am pleased to hand off “Greater Strides – Taking Action on Active Transportation” to the Government of Manitoba.

It was a privilege to work with the members of this group and to have the opportunity to contribute to Manitoba’s long-term vision for active transportation.

This report is a blueprint –enabling government to maximize on the tremendous opportunities active transportation holds for all Manitobans, and for many of the organizations who have shown up today – Green Action Centre, Prairie Pathfinders, and Bike to the Future.

I’d like to thank the many provincial officials, stakeholders and industry representatives who patiently shared their knowledge and advice in developing and compiling these recommendations.

The average Canadian (and there are 34M+ of us) make over 2,000 journeys by car, every year – that are less than three kilometres in distance - whether it’s:

- leaving work for a business lunch,
- dropping the kids off at school,
- going to a class at university or
- travelling to the local grocery store.

What if just half of those trips were human powered trips as they may have been only a generation or two ago? How would our communities look?

- Would we have fewer cars on our roads?
- Would we have less need to fund road and bridge repairs?
- Would our cities have lower infrastructure deficits?
- Would our healthcare system have less pressure from chronic diseases related to diet and poor exercise?
- Would we know more of our neighbours and know more about our own communities?

Canadian provinces and countries throughout the world are striving to answer questions like these with active transportation investments of their own. Many are very advanced in their quest. Here in Manitoba – we don't have to reinvent the wheel but look to proven best practices / design models and guides to create our own Manitoba Active Transportation approach.

- Manitoba is part way through a multi year unprecedented \$4-billion commitment for highway investment throughout the province.
- All three levels of government are working towards a vision to develop Manitoba into a GLOBAL multi modal transportation hub – in the name of CentrePort.
- Greater Strides is a blue print - a guideline for government to lay a solid foundation to incorporate ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION as an integral part of Manitoba's transportation vision.

Today, we have no Provincial active transportation policy to guide decision makers as these major transportation expenditures re being made; we have thousands of people dedicated to our highway infrastructure yet only one Provincial staff person - partially focused - on active transportation.

BUT WHAT WE DO HAVE - or we believe we have –

- is a government that is making steps in the right direction.

We need that focused leadership and a standing meaningful commitment more than ever today - and look to you and your team, Minister Lemieux & Minister Selby – to deliver on these recommendations.

Thank you

Janice Lukes,
Chair, Provincial Active Transportation Advisory Group