

April 13, 2020

City of Calgary
Office of the Mayor and Councillors
Calgary, Alberta

Via email

Re: Active Transportation During COVID-19 Recovery

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Bike Calgary would like to thank the City of Calgary for helping protect personal and public health during the COVID-19 crisis by opening up roadways to active transportation and alleviate the user density on the City's pathways, and providing space for adequate physical distancing. The positive response and usage of this modification of our transportation network demonstrates the desire of Calgarians to use active transportation. It is evident that the City of Calgary was paying attention to the desires and needs of its residents.

Once the worst of the COVID-19 crisis passes, it is likely that some amount of physical distancing will still be required during the recovery phase. Given the need to promote healthy lifestyles and the reluctance to use public transit at the density we saw before the crisis, Bike Calgary is encouraging the City of Calgary to plan to maintain additional space and support for physically-distant active transportation.

Options to provide ongoing support for active transportation as Calgary enters a recovery phase include:

- Infrastructure Improvements:
 - Addition of cycle tracks on roads along pathways that are popular for walking;
 - Widening or twinning of popular pathways;
 - Installation of secure bicycle parking facilities, especially outside the downtown core (many suburban commercial centres have inadequate or non-existent bicycle parking options).
- Maintenance:
 - Improved street sweeping to encourage cyclists to ride on safe and clean roadways to reduce density on the pathways;
 - Repairs to cracks, frost heaves, root heaves, etc. on pathways to allow users to utilize the full width of the pathways;
 - Changing most traffic lights to automatically activate pedestrian signals, instead of requiring the use of beg buttons;
 - Allocation of adequate funding and resources for next year's snow removal to provide consistent, long-term transportation options for people who continue to walk and cycle;

- Enforcement & Education:
 - Visible education and enforcement campaign of the 1 m passing bylaw to make cyclists more comfortable using roadways;
 - Awareness and support campaign around sharing the road with cyclists, again to make cyclists more comfortable on the roadways;
 - Education and awareness campaign for online bike registration (e.g. BikeIndex.org), as concerns around bike theft while in stores or running other errands is still a deterrent for some cyclists.

Bike Calgary would be happy to work with the City of Calgary on refinement of the ideas noted above or other opportunities. Don't hesitate to reach out to us. We would like to help make the City of Calgary safer and more convenient for all transportation users.

Yours sincerely,

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cc: Liveable Streets, City of Calgary, Kim Fisher
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Minister of Transportation, Government of Alberta, Honorable Ric Mclver