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Executive Policy Committee
City of Winnipeg

RE: Motion for the city to match \$18 million federal contribution to rapid transit

Bike to the Future (BttF) is a voluntary, inclusive group of concerned citizens working to make cycling in Winnipeg a safe, enjoyable, accessible and convenient transportation choice year-round. We envision a city where cycling is embraced as the preferred mode of transportation, where cycling is integrated into urban design and planning, and where Winnipeg is recognized as a leader in cycling infrastructure and programs.

Bike to the Future supports the motion on the following grounds:

- **Rapid transit will increase people's use of active transportation.**
 - Many more people will embrace active transportation once we have bikeways that are
 - segregated from traffic
 - are interconnected throughout the city
 - which provide an efficient route to destinations such as work and shopping
 - The 2005 Rapid Transit Task Force Report recommends that “active transportation commuter paths be integrated into dedicated busways and, where possible, into on-street improvements.” **BttF supports the Winnipeg Rapid Transit Coalition.** We recognize that **rapid transit has the potential to produce a portion of the integrated network of transportation pathways that we seek.**
- **The proposed funding has an amplifying effect.**
 - This funding is to match federal money already delivered. If the city supports the project in this way, it makes fund matching by the province more likely. Similarly, if the province matches the federal funding, (say, in the budget that will be announced on Wednesday) how could the city not also contribute?

In addition, **we feel that the rapid transit project should not be financed any differently than other transportation infrastructure projects.** As we understand it, construction of rapid transit will not start until all of the money required is in the bank. Many other roadway projects have been proposed using borrowed money to provide at least a portion of their financing. Why should rapid transit be expected to be paid up front?

Thank you.

Robert Cosco
Chair, BttF City of Winnipeg Committee