



Cycling in Winnipeg and Manitoba

Provincial Election Questionnaire

Using a bicycle as an everyday means of transportation is a small but important action that people can take to improve the environment, their health and the economy. Surveys indicate that about 70% of the population would like to use bicycles as a regular means of transportation if it was safe and convenient to do so. At present, however, there are many impediments to bicycle use, and most people do not use bicycles as everyday transportation. Still, an estimated 9,000 people in Winnipeg use bicycles as their main way of getting to work, at least during the summer months.

In recognition of the benefits of cycling – the reduction of greenhouse gases, the improvement of fitness levels, the reduction of air pollution, the reduced levels of traffic congestion and reduced need for road construction – many jurisdictions have established bicycle development policies and programs. Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia have such policies at the provincial level, and many cities, such as Toronto and Vancouver, also have well-developed bicycle or “active transportation” policies. Winnipeg is also moving in this direction with its recently adopted Active Transportation plan. However, at present, Manitoba does not have a provincial bicycle policy.

As an organization that is dedicated to promoting the use of bicycles as transportation, Bike to the Future has developed the following set of questions for the political parties seeking office in the 2007 provincial election. (See next page.)

About Bike to the Future

Mission: *We are a voluntary, inclusive group of concerned cyclists working to make cycling in Winnipeg a safe, enjoyable, accessible and convenient transportation choice year-round*

Vision: *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.*

Contact: *Bike to the Future, 3rd Floor, 303 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2B4 fax: 942-4207 email: biketothefuture@gmail.com.*



Cycling in Winnipeg and Manitoba

Provincial Election Questionnaire

Question 1: Support for Cycling as Transportation

Do you agree that increased use of bicycles as everyday transportation for work, shopping or other travel is desirable for environmental, health and/or economic reasons, and that the province of Manitoba should develop a provincial policy designed to promote and support the use of bicycles as transportation?

Question 2: Provincial Bicycle Policy

Provincial and State bicycle policies generally include a number of elements such as:

- Reviewing and updating traffic legislation to ensure that it takes into account the needs of cyclists and the issues that arise when cyclists and motor vehicles are sharing the roads;
- Developing standards for road and bridge construction and rehabilitation that ensure that it is practical and safe to ride bicycles on provincial roads;
- Requiring municipal governments to have bicycle plans and that they incorporate appropriate design standards into road and bridge construction and rehabilitation;
- Undertaking or funding public education for motorists and cyclists concerning safe driving and cycling practices;
- Providing targeted funding, in cooperation with municipal governments, that supports the development of cycling infrastructure and is designed to make cycling safe and accessible;
- Establishing standards concerning design of facilities and bicycles;
- Supporting research on cycling so that the volume and characteristics of bicycle traffic can be identified and analyzed, causes of bicycle collisions and injuries can be identified and redressed, and potential and actual reductions in greenhouse gases and air pollutants resulting from increased bicycle traffic can be calculated;
- Promoting the use of bicycles and other forms of active transportation through a public information campaign emphasizing the direct and indirect benefits of cycling to individuals, governments, the environment and the economy.

If elected, will your party implement a provincial bicycle policy with some or all of the above components? Specifically will your party implement:

- * *A public review of the Highway Traffic Act from the standpoint of cycling?*
- * *Cycling-related standards for road and bridge construction?*
- * *Legislation requiring bike facilities in all road and bridge construction projects?*
- * *Legislation requiring municipal governments to have bicycle policies?*
- * *Targeted funding to support the development of cycling infrastructure?*
- * *Driver education programs for motorists and cyclists?*
- * *Research concerning cycling in Manitoba?*
- * *Promotion of cycling as a means of transportation in Manitoba?*
- * *Other bicycle-related policies?*

Question 3: Measuring Progress

According to a 2004 City of Winnipeg survey, approximately 3% of Winnipeggers choose to commute to work by bicycle, and about one third of Winnipeggers travel to work by bicycle at least once a year. In addition, 40% of Winnipeggers would cycle to work more often if there was adequate cycling infrastructure. Other Canadian cities are doing better than Winnipeg, with 5% of commuters in Victoria B.C. traveling by bicycle. Yet this pales in comparison with many northern European cities where extensive cycling facilities exist. In Amsterdam 28% of all trips are made by bicycle. In Copenhagen, 20% of all trips are made by bike. In Bremen Germany, 21% of all trips are made by bicycle.

If elected what would your goals be for cycling in Winnipeg and Manitoba, and how would you measure the success of your cycling policies?