



Gregory Selinger
Minister of Finance
103 Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0V8

January 21, 2009

Dear Mr. Selinger,

We are aware that Bike to the Future has sent in a budget proposal to your office (dated December 4, 2008). We are also aware of the numerous reports and committee presentations which outline Bike to the Future's cycling vision for the province of Manitoba (all freely available on their website). In short, what they are asking for is quite simple: that 5% of the highway and road budget be invested in active transportation infrastructure.

The province has committed \$4 billion over ten years to its Highway Renewal Infrastructure Program. In fact, the government even gloated about finding an additional \$49 million in late November. Why could this money not be invested in improved active transportation infrastructure?

As Bike to the Future has outlined, increased cycling boasts many external benefits, such as: health and environmental impacts, affordability of transportation, reduced road congestion, construction and maintenance, and increased tourism.

A quote from Bike to the Future's budget recommendations seems especially poignant here: "The current and historic lack of investment in safe cycling infrastructure is a key deterrent keeping people from cycling." As leader of the Green Party of Manitoba, I can assure you that budgeting for Active Transportation investment will *not* be an issue when Manitoba elects a Green government. We will be considering 10-15% (or even more) of our road maintenance budget towards sustainable, human-powered transportation.

The question, therefore, is not *why* should the Manitoba government invest in active transportation, but instead why has the current government *not* been investing in the past decade of its administration?

Hoping to see swift and meaningful action on this issue in the next provincial budget,
Sincerely,

James R. Beddome
Leader
Green Party of Manitoba
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