

Cycling in Winnipeg

City of Winnipeg Council and Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

In 2005 the City of Winnipeg's Active Transportation study was tabled by City Council. That study included, among other things, the results of various local and national surveys concerning cycling. For example, the study reported that 30% of Manitobans cycle most of the time to at least one destination. It also cited results of a 2004 City of Winnipeg Public Works Department survey that found 2.8% of the Winnipeg workforce cycles to work. Although this is a small proportion of the work force, it represents a substantial number of bicycle commuters. Given that Winnipeg's work force is about 275,000, some 8,000 Winnipeggers use bicycles as their primary means of commuting to work.

Creating a more bicycle friendly city will require a commitment by key city agencies to implement bicycle friendly strategies. As part of our continuing advocacy of cycling issues in Winnipeg, we have developed the following set of questions for candidates seeking office in the October 25th, 2006 civic election.

Question 1:

Section 8 – “Priorities and Implementation” of the Active Transportation Study (released in February 2005) identifies the following programs/policies as priorities for implementation in the short term:

1. Hire or Dedicate an Active Transportation Coordinator
2. Form an Active Transportation Committee reporting directly to the Executive Policy Committee
3. Build public awareness of and foster public dialogue on Bicycle Commuting in Winnipeg
4. Develop a Detailed Action Plan with Time Frames

Do you support these objectives, and are you willing to promote significant and sustained funding to advance these goals, starting with the 2007 budget? Please be as detailed as possible.

Question 2:

A public works survey conducted in the spring of 2004 indicated that 2.8% of Winnipeggers bicycle to work, yet in 2006 the city budgeted \$200,000 for cycling facilities, representing just 0.3% of the \$62 million allocated for streets and bridges.

Do you support dedicating at least 2.8% of the city's budget for streets and bridges to the creation and maintenance of on-the-road commuter cycling routes and other cycling facilities? If you are unwilling to dedicate 2.8% of the budget to cycling, what percentage or amount would you recommend?

Question 3:

Responsible transportation policy should follow the principle that all city streets need to be bicycle friendly. A key component of the Bike to the Future policy forum report was to recommend the integration of cycling needs into all future road construction.

How will you work to ensure that all traffic impact studies, proposed street changes and development projects (including Waverly West) address impacts on bicycling and bicycle facilities both for commuters and recreational users?

Question 4:

Bicycle commuting offers a low cost, healthy alternative to traditional single occupant vehicle commuting, reducing demand on overcrowded streets and curtailing the need for parking.

What programs would you include in the upcoming budget to promote bicycle commuting and recreation in Winnipeg?