

March 2, 2020

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P. (pm@pm.gc.ca)
Office of the Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to you as representatives of Canada's cycling, walking, driving and health communities, and with the support of organizations representing transit riders and the municipal sector, to urge the Government of Canada to work with us to create a national active transportation strategy.

Vélo Canada Bikes, Green Communities Canada (Canada Walks), Canadian Automobile Association, Heart & Stroke, and Active School Travel Canada recognize the value to Canadians in having federal leadership on this issue, as do our stakeholder partners including the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Canadian Urban Transit Association, who support this request.

Getting Canadians walking, cycling and taking transit for their daily needs is tangible climate action that everyone can support. The development of a national active transportation strategy is a straightforward way for the federal government to show climate leadership and support action being taken at the local level by community organizations and municipalities.

A lack of federal co-ordination on infrastructure investment means we are in danger of not achieving the full environmental, productivity and health benefits that would flow from optimizing spending. All three levels of government invest in some active transportation projects, but without a framework that would help properly co-ordinate efforts and measure outcomes.

We ask the Government of Canada, as a first step, to identify a lead Minister and Department for active transportation. Past efforts have been stymied by a lack of clarity as to which department should play the coordinating role for an issue that overlaps between the mandates of Transport Canada, Infrastructure Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and Health Canada, through the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Second, we suggest that the coordinating department convene stakeholders in the active transportation space to begin work on a national strategy. This group, in concert with officials, would identify and prioritize the key elements of a national strategy. Among the issues to be considered is how to better collect and report active transportation data.

For instance, Canada is one of the few major industrialized countries not to have a national household travel survey. This survey would provide detailed and demographically-inclusive transportation behaviour data for multiple trip types. We consistently hear that policymakers and stakeholders face a lack of reliable data in this area, particularly on the mobility of women and vulnerable road users.

Active transportation brings with it a host of desirable outcomes, from environmental improvements to equity and inclusion, healthier communities, better economic productivity and greater safety. Both the Government of Canada, the undersigned and our stakeholder partners support these goals. We believe our proposal would help move us along the path towards a more sustainable vision for transportation in Canada. If you would like additional details, please contact Jason Kerr, Senior Director, Government Relations at CAA (jkerr@national.caa.ca) on behalf of the parties to this letter.

Sincerely,

Anders Swanson
Chair
Vélo Bikes Canada



Clifford Maynes
Associate Director
Green Communities Canada (Canada Walks)



Ian Jack
Vice President, Public Affairs
Canadian Automobile Association



Manuel Arango
Director, Policy, Advocacy & Engagement
Heart & Stroke



Jamie Hilland
Chair
Active School Travel Canada

And supported by:



CC: The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P., Minister of Infrastructure and Communities (INFC.MINISTER-MINISTRE.INFC@CANADA.CA)

CC: The Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P., Minister of Transport (MINTC@TC.GC.CA)

CC: The Honourable Johnathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P., Minister of Environment and Climate Change (EC.MINISTRE-MINISTER.EC@CANADA.CA)

CC: The Honourable Patty Hajdu, P.C., M.P., Minister of Health (HCMINISTER.MINSTREC@CANADA.CA)