



3 – 330 Portage Ave
Winnipeg MB
R3B 2B2
biketothefuture@gmail.com
www.biketothefuture.org

For Immediate Release - April 30, 2007 Survey of Party Policies in Support of Cycling

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 many jurisdictions have established bicycle development policies and programs. Such provinces as 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.

Bike to the Future, Winnipeg's advocacy group for cycling as everyday transportation, recently sent a questionnaire to all registered parties with candidates in the upcoming provincial elections asking about their policies to support increased use of bicycles in Winnipeg and Manitoba. We are seeking responses to the following three questions:

1. ***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 should develop a provincial policy to promote and support the use of bicycles as transportation?***
2. ***If elected, will your party put into place a provincial bicycle policy? Will the policy cover the following elements?***
 - * *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?*
 - * *Promotion of cycling as a means of transportation in Manitoba?*
3. ***What are your party's goals for cycling in Winnipeg and Manitoba, and how would you measure the success of your cycling policies?***

We are asking the parties to respond to these questions by May 4. We will review the responses we receive and publish them, along with our assessments, by May 11.

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.

**Media
Contacts:** Jeremy Hull: Home Phone: 477-5981
Work Phone: 944-0007
Email: prolog@mts.net

Mark Cohoe: Home Phone: 475-5882;
Work Phone: 475-5070
Email: mcohoe@mts.net