



c/o 3rd Floor 303 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2B4  
Fax. 942-4207

biketothefuture@gmail.com  
www.biketothefuture.org

## A Short History of Bike to the Future

After the intense focus on cycling in Winnipeg throughout the summer of 2006, a forum entitled “Bike to the Future” was held at the University of Winnipeg on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Over 100 cyclists came together to discuss their vision for cycling in Winnipeg and to share their ideas about what is needed to make cycling better and safer in our city. The forum resulted in a report that was delivered by bike to elected representatives at the Provincial Legislature and City Hall. These recommendations included:

- **The City and Province should:**
  - Encourage and celebrate cycling as a healthy form of transportation
  - Recognize the diversity of citizens who cycle for various reasons, from recreational to commuting, in summer and winter
- **The City should:**
  - Adopt the recommendations of the Active Transportation Study, which include:
    - Hiring an Active Transportation coordinator
    - Forming an Active Transportation Advisory Committee
    - A detailed action plan for active transportation with time frames
    - Dedicated funding, at least 3% of Public Works – Streets capital budget for roadways, reflecting the number of cyclists using roads.
    - Develop a detailed plan for a citywide network of commuting routes
    - Integrate cycling needs into all road construction
    - Integrate transit with cycling
- **The Province should:**
  - Re-examine the Highway Traffic Act to meet the needs of cyclists
  - Build on the low cost helmet program and offer other incentives to encourage cycling
  - Develop a bicycle policy in the Ministry of Transportation like the government of Québec
- **Manitoba Public Insurance and partners should:**
  - Educate drivers and cyclists on safety and mutual respect

After the forum, the municipal election provided an ideal opportunity to raise the awareness of cycling in the City of Winnipeg. A group of people came together after the forum and under the organizational name of “Bike to the Future” created a questionnaire that was distributed to all municipal candidates asking for their vision of cycling in the city and what they were going to do to improve infrastructure for commuter cyclists in Winnipeg. As a result, Winnipeg cyclists were named “Most Effective Lobby Group” during the election.

Since the 2006 civic election, Bike to the Future has been busy meeting with city and provincial leaders to advance recommendations made in the Bike to the Future Forum Report and getting organized to pursue an ambitious agenda, including a membership drive and continued advocacy for infrastructure improvements. The organization has also been a strong participant in trail-development groups for Marconi (new trail in North and East Kildonan to Elmwood), WinSmart (new trail phase one from Forks to Pembina), and Bishop Grandin Greenway (new trail along Bishop Grandin that will eventually connect to Fort Whyte), as well as on a stakeholder committee for public consultations about the redevelopment of the Disraeli Bridge and Overpass. Bike to the Future’s main objective is promoting cycling as transportation, which includes the development and use of bike lanes, designated routes on public streets and also multi-use pathways as part of an interconnected bike route network. On Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Bike to the Future held their first Annual General Meeting and officially developed a set of bylaws and elected a volunteer board of directors.