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PC Responses to Bike to the Future Survey

Grade: C-

Question 1: Support for Cycling as Transportation



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 of Manitoba should develop a provincial policy designed to promote and support the use of bicycles as transportation?

The PC Party of Manitoba agrees there are distinct health, environmental and economic benefits derived from greater use of bicycles. Public and personal economic benefits include reduced health care costs, less spending on gasoline purchases and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. We support the greater use of bicycles as a means of transportation.

Cycling is already part of the province's general promotional efforts toward active lifestyles. However, it could be further promoted as an option for health and environmental benefits where practical. Such a policy would need to remain voluntary, in that it would be inappropriate for government to mandate their use over other forms of transportation. Government should limit its control over people's right to make their own decisions as much as possible.

Our approach would be incentive-based and encourage voluntary participation. The provincial government should promote cycling through:

- 1) Infrastructure: The PC Party of Manitoba has committed \$3 million towards the City of Winnipeg's network of bicycle paths; and
- 2) Incentives: we have committed to eliminate the PST on bicycle purchases.

Question 2: Provincial Bicycle Policy

Provincial and State bicycle policies generally include a number of elements such as:

- ***Reviewing and updating traffic legislation to ensure that it takes into account the needs of cyclists and the issues that arise when cyclists and motor vehicles are sharing the roads;***
- ***Developing standards for road and bridge construction and rehabilitation that ensure that it is practical and safe to ride bicycles on provincial roads;***

- ***Requiring municipal governments to have bicycle plans and that they incorporate appropriate design standards into road and bridge construction and rehabilitation;***
- ***Undertaking or funding public education for motorists and cyclists concerning safe driving and cycling practices;***
- ***Providing targeted funding, in cooperation with municipal governments, that supports the development of cycling infrastructure and is designed to make cycling safe and accessible;***
- ***Establishing standards concerning design of facilities and bicycles;***
- ***Supporting research on cycling so that the volume and characteristics of bicycle traffic can be identified and analyzed, causes of bicycle collisions and injuries can be identified and redressed, and potential and actual reductions in greenhouse gases and air pollutants resulting from increased bicycle traffic can be calculated;***
- ***Promoting the use of bicycles and other forms of active transportation through a public information campaign emphasizing the direct and indirect benefits of cycling to individuals, governments, the environment and the economy.***

If elected, will your party implement a provincial bicycle policy with some or all of the above components? Specifically will your party implement:

- * *A public review of the Highway Traffic Act from the standpoint of cycling? We would be open to discussing the possibility of legislative review with stakeholders.*
- * *Cycling-related standards for road and bridge construction? We would encourage the construction of pathways alongside new road and bridge construction that would allow for safer bicycle travel on major thoroughfares where appropriate.*
- * *Legislation requiring bike facilities in all road and bridge construction projects? No. The development of separate bike paths throughout the city will make it less necessary for cyclists to travel on main roads.*
- * *Legislation requiring municipal governments to have bicycle policies? No. The City of Winnipeg has already committed to expanding its bicycle path infrastructure.*
- * *Targeted funding to support the development of cycling infrastructure? The PC Party of Manitoba has made a funding announcement of \$3 million in support of the City of Winnipeg's plan to develop the community's network of recreational walking and bicycling paths.*
- * *Driver education programs for motorists and cyclists? We would explore the possibility of enhancing provincial programs to emphasize the importance of sharing the road with other, non-automobile transportation.*
- * *Research concerning cycling in Manitoba? We believe this could form part of broadened health research.*
- * *Promotion of cycling as a means of transportation in Manitoba? We would look at this as part of healthy lifestyles public promotion.*

- * *Other bicycle-related policies?* A PC Government will eliminate the PST on bicycle purchases as a means of encouraging greater use of them as an alternative form of transportation.

Question 3: Measuring Progress

According to a 2004 City of Winnipeg survey, approximately 3% of Winnipeggers choose to commute to work by bicycle, and about one third of Winnipeggers travel to work by bicycle at least once a year. In addition, 40% of Winnipeggers would cycle to work more often if there was adequate cycling infrastructure. Other Canadian cities are doing better than Winnipeg, with 5% of commuters in Victoria B.C. traveling by bicycle. Yet this pales in comparison with many northern European cities where extensive cycling facilities exist. In Amsterdam 28% of all trips are made by bicycle. In Copenhagen, 20% of all trips are made by bike. In Bremen Germany, 21% of all trips are made by bicycle.

If elected what would your goals be for cycling in Winnipeg and Manitoba, and how would you measure the success of your cycling policies?

We have announced a commitment to a cost sharing agreement with the City of Winnipeg for the expansion of its recreational walking and bicycle paths.

We have also announced our intention to eliminate the Provincial Sales Tax on bicycle purchases in Manitoba.

Based on the level of demand, a PC Government would consider financial contributions to other Manitoba communities in need of cycling infrastructure.