

“Policy matters and it will matter for a long time. Everything we see as right or wrong can be traced back to a policy decision.”

– Geoff Noxon of Noxon Associates Limited, speaking at Complete Streets Forum 2010, Toronto, ON

14 Provide long-term active transportation funding for municipalities to use towards the cost of active transportation planning.

An active transportation plan is the blueprint that guides the development of a community's sustainable transportation infrastructure and programming. It sets out policies, programs and design criteria to enhance the safety, comfort and accessibility of citizens actively riding, rolling and walking in their community. A good plan pinpoints the type of infrastructure needed, recommends development locations, prioritizes projects, and sets out long-term funding requirements to help budget for its realization. It serves as a reference for and should contribute to the overall transportation and development plans for the area. A provincial funding

program, such as a per capita grant, would allow municipalities the time and expertise to develop such plans. For around the cost of one city bus ticket per person, the government of Manitoba could provide the financial incentive for municipalities to develop active transportation plans.

Public input is necessary to ensure the transportation system planning reflects the type of community residents want. It would be valuable for the province to solicit input from Manitobans about their active transportation needs. Each community in Manitoba has its own requirements and a distinct culture. This also applies to their transportation needs and desires. Programs should be developed to seek community ideas at a grassroots level and allow for input by Manitobans on what they want to see happen in their communities.

Thompson, Manitoba



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