



Sudbury Cyclists Union

June 19, 2012

Re: 2013 Proposed Budget

The Sudbury Cyclists Union (SCU) supports and endorses the recommendations previously made by the Sustainable Mobility Panel and the Bicycle Advisory Panel, as well as the current work being done for the Master Transportation Study which attributes appropriate weight to cycling as a transportation means. We believe these to be important steps in creating a strong cycling culture in Sudbury to make it safe and accessible.

The SCU is making important steps to unite the interests of cyclists by working with other organizations sharing similar objectives, namely the Sustainable Mobility Panel, the Rainbow Routes Association, the Sudbury Police, ReThink Green, and other local organisations and festivals. An important SCU objective for 2012 is to provide local content and user comments to the Transportation Study's proposed Cycling Network. We also believe that policy development, cycling infrastructure and education and awareness is essential at this point in time, as was identified in the Sustainable Mobility Plan and discussed herein.

Policy Development

Policy Development is comprised of the various policy documents that need to drive budgetary decisions. The City is currently undertaking the Official Plan review, with hopefully an approval date of 2014. It is anticipated that the Transportation Schedule will be completed this year. This will include a Bicycle Route Network with Classification System.

Although important studies are still on-going, the SMP recommendations have been previously endorsed by Council and their recommendations should be implemented without any further delays. Furthermore, preliminary findings should be considered for current decisions and in this budgeting process. Council has agreed to make Sudbury the most pedestrian friendly city by 2015, and cycling is a key component to making this a reality, which deserves its due place in the 2013 budget.

Investing in Cycling Infrastructure

During 2013, we request that the City continue to put in bike lanes and paved shoulders as part of road reconstruction and expansion. Section 11.2.2 in the Transportation section of the current Official Plan states that "The rehabilitation of existing roads and the construction of new roads will include provisions, where appropriate, for: among others, bicycle lanes and paths." We hope to see 100% compliancy with these guidelines during 2013 construction. We also believe that consultation with end users and those most knowledgeable with active transportation should be made mandatory in order to provide the optimal cost/benefit return.

The SCU believes that safety is the number one concern for cyclists on Sudbury roads and we recommend the City attribute immediate funds to lower-cost items like sharrows and connector roads/arteries, which could see immediate positive impacts.

Public Awareness and Education

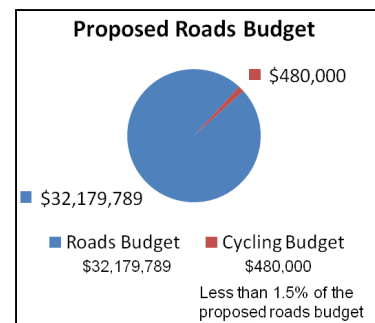
Communicating cycling opportunities to cyclists and would-be cyclists is integral to getting people to feel safe on our public roads. To address this need, the SCU proposes that the City establish an Active Transportation Coordinator to maximize opportunities and optimize spending and efforts. Amongst other things, this person could create a cycling wayfinding map, develop user-friendly web pages, promote active transportation through media campaigns and public events, and more importantly, work with local organisations having the same goals and objectives.

The SCU is committed to cycling education and through the Rainbow Routes, the SCU now has 5 trained CAN-BIKE instructors - we are volunteering to train cyclists of all ages and have already participated in several bike rodeos and bike exchanges. We are planning on holding a variety of CAN-BIKE courses during the summer. The City could play an integral role in assisting the SCU, and we believe the City needs to take a pro-active and leadership role in educating both cyclists and motorists to make our roads safer. We need to have everyone to Share the Road!

Proposed Budget

In order to underline the importance of cycling in Sudbury and provide transparency to the investments made in cycling, the Roads Budget should include a line item dedicated to cycling enhancements, exclusive of the requirements contained in new roads and road repairs.

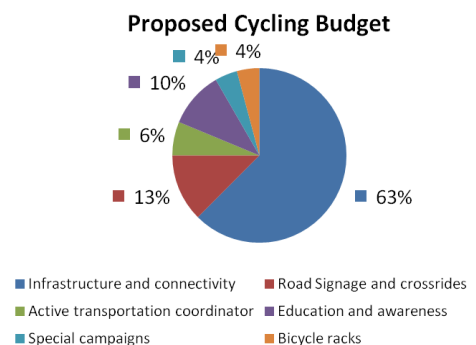
For the 2013 budget, we are asking the city to invest \$480,000 in providing support mechanisms for cycling in Sudbury. This represents less than 1.5% of the current proposed road budget.



The investments should go to lower cost items that address immediate needs: cycling signage including crossriders, sharrows and connecting infrastructure, bike racks, as well as additional projects that will entrench cycling as a valid, convenient and affordable method of transportation. Objectives could be greatly facilitated by a CGS appointed Active Transportation Coordinator.

As a starting point, the suggested \$480,000 budget could be allocated in the following percentages:

- Infrastructure and connectivity 64%
- Road signage and crossriders 13%
- Education and awareness 10%
- Active Transportation Coordinator 6%
- Special campaigns 4%
- Bicycle racks 4%



Conclusion

We've all heard that investing in alternate modes of transportation is important and cost effective in the long term. The SCU would be pleased to assist the City to establish priorities and implementation strategies. With the help of the CGS, we look forward to increasing and improving our City's cycling culture.