



Sudbury Cyclists Union

Submission to the Greater Sudbury 2018 Budget

The Sudbury Cyclists Union (SCU) is a grassroots organization formed in 2010. Our mission is to connect cyclists and improve Greater Sudbury's cycling culture.

The SCU is a voice for cyclists of all ages and abilities. We are recreational and commuter cyclists. For some, cycling is a primary mode of transportation. For others, it's an occasional use. For many, it's something they would like to do more of. We work to promote safe and convenient cycling for everyone in Greater Sudbury.

You have clearly identified that you want to see a safe and complete network of cycling routes in Greater Sudbury, and we thank you for this vision. There have been a good number of cycling infrastructure projects in 2017 and we very much support the great work that our new Active Transportation Coordinator Marisa Talarico has done this year. Our priorities for 2018 are to continue this good work through additional capital and operational budget dollars.

Our priorities for the 2018 budget:

1. Capital: Continue to build a minimum grid of key cycling infrastructure

We need to continue to build additional separated infrastructure on our high traffic and high speed roads to provide full multi-modal transportation options in our city.

We recommend additional capital dollars to be used exclusively for implementing safe cycling infrastructure.

Many cities are now moving towards dedicating 10% of their road capital dollars to cycling infrastructure. We would like to see more dollars used to retrofit existing roads in order to more aggressively complete the cycling plan identified in the Transportation Master Plan. This would mean road projects dedicated to retrofit roads specifically for cycling, like the current work being done on Paris St.

The TMP has timelines that indicate that a safe and complete network can only be completed in 15 to 20 years. We need to develop **an action plan** to more quickly implement that network.

Our priorities are those roads that are used by cyclists to get to work, school, shopping, parks, and other destinations. This includes additional infrastructure built on **Paris/Notre Dame** to extend the work that was done in 2017, and new infrastructure on **Barrydowne, Lasalle and Kingsway**.

2. Operational: Implement programs to support safe cycling and encourage a better cycling culture

Our first cycling death in a number of years happened in 2017. With more cyclists and cars on the road, it is imperative that we systematically address the safety of cyclists, all while encouraging a good cycling culture.

We recommend an operational budget for cycling programming that can be used by the Active Transportation Coordinator and other supporting departments to help fund cycling programming.

For example:

Safe cycling courses: The City of Greater Sudbury already delivers some safe cycling courses, but there is a need for additional cycling courses targeting all cyclists, including children, adults, seniors, and families. More money is needed for developing additional cycling instructors, partnering with schools to deliver safe cycling education in schools, and promoting safe cycling courses.

Bicycle parking infrastructure: We need dollars to provide bike parking facilities at City of Greater Sudbury facilities as well as encourage and subsidize bike parking facilities at non-City locations.

Increased maintenance and development of multi-use trail systems: Some trails are used as alternatives to on-road trips, but there are deficiencies on these trails that need to be identified. For example, we need better road crossing markings and curb retrofits, better surface treatments, and lighting.

Road safety messaging: We need a good plan and dollars to develop road safety messaging for both cyclists and motor vehicle drivers, including social media, electronic bulletin boards, etc.

Road safety enforcement: We need dollars for the Greater Sudbury Police Service to address unsafe behaviours that put cyclists at risk, targeting both cyclists and motor vehicle drivers. For example, the most dangerous behaviour currently experienced by cyclists is drivers passing too closely. A strategy should be developed to enforce the 1-metre passing law.

Support for community-driven cycling: The burden to create a safe cycling culture in Greater Sudbury currently falls to community groups. Dollars are needed to support those programs, especially those that target children and lower-income residents. The City of Greater of Sudbury is a partner in Sudbury Cycles, along with the SCU, Rainbow Routes Association, and the Sudbury & District Health Unit. This partnership helps to deliver programs like kids bike exchanges, kids bike rodeos, and others. Small grants are needed to help support for these initiatives and others not currently offered like a program to provide lower-income residents who may need items like helmets, bells and lights; a community bike-coop; and community outreach to identify what residents want and need.

3. Operational: Policies

We are looking forward to seeing the Complete Streets Policy, the Transportation Demand Management strategy, and the implementation of new road classifications and new road design standards proposed in the Master Transportation Plan.

We recommend the development of additional policies and plans, including a **cycling infrastructure priority index** that identifies required road cycling retrofits; and **new levels of service based on all**

modes of transportation and that include metrics and measurement criteria for pedestrians, cyclists, transit, cars and trucks.

4. Operational: Community Consultation

We would like to see additional opportunities for face-to-face community consultation that go beyond a single public information session for projects and policy development. We are encouraged by the work that has begun by the Active Transportation Coordinator to better involve groups like the Sustainable Mobility Panel and community groups in reviewing planned infrastructure and soliciting input into strategic directions. We recommend more community outreach and communication options, in the initial planning through implementation phases of projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachelle Niemela".

Rachelle Niemela
Chair, Sudbury Cyclists Union