

# Investing in a Healthy Future

The British Columbia Cycling Coalition (BCCC) is proposing a **dramatic acceleration** of the **investment** in cycling infrastructure including **bicycle paths, separated bicycle lanes** and other high quality bicycle facilities. This investment in **infrastructure**, accompanied by funding for **education, promotion**, and end-of-trip facilities, will enable residents and visitors of **all ages and abilities** to safely and conveniently cycle throughout the province, fostering **healthier individuals** and **communities**. Cycling can become a practical transportation choice for more people, leading to significantly **reduced GHG emissions** and **congestion**.

## Economic Benefits

- Decreased **health care costs** due to improved physical fitness
- Increased **worker productivity** due to higher levels of physical fitness
- Attracting the **skilled professionals** required to build the businesses of the future who value the benefits of a **healthy environment** and **physical fitness**.
- Boosting **tourism** and the local **retail economy**
- Increased tax **revenue** and **jobs** from the **bicycle industry**
- Increased **expertise in planning** high quality cycling facilities which can be **exported** worldwide

Research from the UK indicates that **each** full time **cyclist benefits** society by **\$2,000 to \$5,000** per year.

## Cycling is Popular

Approximately **50%** of Metro Vancouver residents **cycle** at least occasionally, while **85%** support **government funding**, planning, and promoting of cycling. Support is likely similar throughout BC.

## Benefits for Others

Cycling facilities such as multi-use paths are used by **pedestrians, in-line skaters** and **wheelchairs users**. Traffic calming along bicycle routes makes streets **safer** for **seniors, children**, and the **disabled**. Bike lanes calm traffic, **enhancing** the **pedestrian environment** and creating a **welcoming retail atmosphere**.

## Infrastructure

A large expenditure on cycling facilities is required to make up ground lost through several **decades of under-investment**. The **Netherlands**, widely hailed as the world leader in cycling, spends approximately **\$40 per person per year** on cycling. Several other jurisdictions with cycling levels similar to that of BC are matching or exceeding that level of investment including **Winnipeg, Portland** and **Sydney, Australia**.

**Investment** - A **four year** investment of **\$175 million** (**\$40 per person**) per year totalling **\$700 million** for high quality cycling facilities throughout BC.

## Maximizing the Benefits

No other transportation investment of similar size can boast the potential to be enjoyed by people of all ages, in communities large and small, throughout the province. This four year investment will enable the construction of hundreds of kilometres of high quality facilities in communities around the province, giving the majority of British Columbians access to extensive networks of great bicycle routes.

## Extensive Networks

The value of extensive networks is demonstrated in Davis, California and Boulder, Colorado. With around **20%** of trips by bicycle, they have the highest levels of cycling in North America facilitated by mature networks, which include **bike lanes** on almost **all arterials** and **extensive off-road bicycle paths**.

**Funding Sources** - Implement, or give municipalities and TransLink the authority to implement, funding measures encouraging bicycle use, such as the **gas tax, road pricing, tolls** on existing infrastructure, **parking tax, vehicle levy, carbon tax** and **congestion pricing**.

**Flexibly** - Provide flexibility in funding for municipalities. Consider funding up to **100%** of projects to ensure the **timely implementation** of high quality facilities in smaller communities.

## Tourism

Increase **cycling tourism** will have significant **economic benefits** to rural BC communities. In 2006, users of Québec's Route Verte **spent \$134 million** supporting over **2,800 jobs** and generating **\$36 million** in **tax revenue**.

**Tourism** – Provide funding to develop a network of cycling routes linking communities and attractions throughout the province that will offer visitors and residences wonderful cycle touring experiences.

**Rail Right-of-ways** – Ensure funding is available to purchase abandoned rail right-of-ways so they can be converted to cycling and walking trails.

## Other Measures

**Education** - Improve **safety** through funding for cycling skills and safety education for **children** and adults totalling **\$5 million** per year.

**Promotion** - Encourage cycling through funding for marketing and promotion totalling **\$5 million** per year.

**Maintenance** - Increase maintenance budgets for cycling facilities to enable the prompt removal of debris, snow, and ice and to ensure facilities remain in good repair.

**Motor Vehicle Act** - Provide funding (an estimated **\$10 million**) to update the Motor Vehicle Act to improve the **safety** of cyclists and provide **clarity** to all road users.

**Bike Sharing** - Provide funding for shared bicycle systems in communities around BC.

**Professional Development** - Provide funding for conferences, workshops, and courses to ensure there is the expertise necessary to design safe high-quality cycling facilities.

**Tax Incentives** - Offer tax incentives for private firms and municipal governments to offer cycling allowances to their staff.

**Parking Cash Out Law** - Establish a parking cash out law ensuring that cyclists, pedestrians, and transit riders receive an amount similar to any parking subsidy offered to those who commute by car.

**Parking and Showers** - Offer tax incentives to businesses that add bicycle parking and showers for their employees.

**Access to Bicycles** - Provide funding for initiatives that provide bicycles to people with low incomes.

## More Information

More information can be found on the benefits of cycling and on the BCCC's recommendations at: [http://bccc.bc.ca/Documents/BCCC-Cycling\\_Investment\\_Recommendations.pdf](http://bccc.bc.ca/Documents/BCCC-Cycling_Investment_Recommendations.pdf)

## Contact

Jim Alix, Director, British Columbia Cycling Coalition  
james.alix@gmail.com 778-678-7080



The BCCC's member organizations represent **thousands of cyclists** across BC.

**Vancouver** Area Cycling Coalition with local committees in **Surrey, White Rock, the Tri-cities, the North Shore, New Westminister, Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, Burnaby**  
Greater **Victoria** Cycling Coalition  
Greater **Nanaimo** Cycling Coalition  
**Kelowna** and Area Cycling Coalition  
Cross Canada Cycle Tour Society

**Juan de Fuca** Cycling Coalition  
**Abbotsford** Cycling Action Group  
**Comox** Valley Cycling Coalition  
BC Randonneurs Cycling Club