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**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

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Honourable Glen R. Murray, MPP  
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change  
11<sup>th</sup> Floor, Ferguson Block  
77 Wellesley Street West  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2T5

November 18, 2016

Dear Minister Murray,

I'm writing on behalf of our city in support of the Ontario Government's proposal to invest in cycling infrastructure as quickly as possible under the Climate Change Action Plan and to allocate the full \$225 million proposed over the next five years.

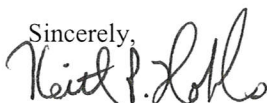
The city of Thunder Bay is presently engaged in an update to our Transportation Master Plan and it is clear that priorities were much different decades ago when our previous plan was created and existing infrastructure was being built. Our city has a legacy of automobile-centric infrastructure and transitioning our transportation network into a multi-modal system that provides equity, safety, sustainability, and comfort to all people is the path forward. The costs of this transition depend on consistent and significant funding from all orders of government.

Citizens groups in Thunder Bay are also regularly and actively engaging our administration in advocating for safe and convenient infrastructure particularly related to connectivity between our historic downtown cores, and between our existing segmented trail and bike lane network. The culture of cycling in Thunder Bay is gradually but noticeably shifting from one focused on recreation to a more comprehensive culture that embraces cycling as a first-class transportation mode. Our infrastructure needs to evolve to accommodate all ages and abilities of riders, including those who don't currently ride because of fear, to help this culture flourish. Cycling needs to be a real option for average people in order for Ontario to realize its greenhouse gas reduction goals, health benefits, and even reductions in healthcare spending due to inactivity-related illness.

In Thunder Bay, the average commute to work is under 4.7 km and our terrain is relatively flat. With each passing year, our winter is becoming shorter and the weather warmer. The availability of safe infrastructure is a key determining factor for increasing the modal share of cycling in Ontario cities. We are well-positioned to move some of our transportation modal share to cycling but cannot fund this transition alone.

With provincial investment, we believe we can make it safer for people to embrace other transportation options, including cycling, for many of their trips.

Thanks for your consideration of getting funding to Ontario municipalities like Thunder Bay for investments in cycling infrastructure. Making this funding a reality will help Thunder Bay become a more sustainable, financially resilient, and equitable community.

Sincerely,  
  
Keith Hobbs, Mayor  
City of Thunder Bay

cc: Norm Gale, City Manager  
Kerri Marshall, GM Infrastructure & Operations, City of Thunder Bay  
Adam Krupper, Mobility Coordinator, City of Thunder Bay  
Dean Stamler, Campaign Manager – The Memorial Link, EarthCare Advisory Committee