

Date: May 3, 2000

TO: All HQ Directors, Operations, Planning and Major Projects
All Regional Directors
All District Highways Managers

SUBJECT:

Cycling Policy

PURPOSE:

To ensure that cyclists and their requirements are considered in ministry practices and on ministry infrastructure.

BACKGROUND:

The Ministry of Transportation and Highways developed the Interim Cycling Policy in December of 1992. In January of 1999 the Minister of Transportation and Highways met with the BC Cycling Coalition (BCCC). At this meeting the BCCC expressed concern that the Ministry's Cycling Policy was still interim. A commitment was made to review the Interim Policy with a view to finalizing it.

A consultation process was initiated which included a survey of cycling stakeholders for their concerns, a follow-up survey confirming their concerns and suggesting possible solutions, and then a one-day policy workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to come to a consensus on the content of the policy and supporting reference material.

The material from the workshop was incorporated into a new cycling policy, which was presented to Executive on October 25, 1999. Executive recommended that the policy proceed to the Minister for his consideration. The Minister announced the cycling policy February 17th, 2000.

To reinforce the policy the Ministry of Transportation and Highways' Cycling Guide was released in April 2000. The guide booklet provides the ministry's cycling policy and supporting reference material.

NEW POLICY

Cycling benefits the Province's environment, its economy, the health of its people and society at large. It is the goal of the Ministry to integrate bicycling by providing safe, accessible and convenient bicycle facilities on the Province's highways and to support and encourage cycling. Cycling supports the Ministry's mandate to provide British Columbians with an integrated multi-modal transportation system.

1. Provisions for cyclists are made on all new and upgraded provincial highways. All exceptions to this Policy will be subject to an evaluation procedure, as described in the reference material.*

Route evaluations that impact cyclists will include consultations with cycling stakeholders. An evaluation can be applied on existing routes to identify measures that will improve cycling conditions.

2. The Ministry will involve cycling interests and local government officials responsible for cycling in all highway planning consultations. Municipal bicycle advisory committees, the Provincial Cycling Advisory Committee, and/or recognized cycling advocacy organizations can be utilized to provide advice on cycling needs, facilitate issues and to monitor the effectiveness of the Cycling Policy.
3. To accommodate the safety and travel requirements for different types of cyclists, the Ministry will plan, design and build for the appropriate type of cyclist based on the type of facility.
4. The cost of meeting the Cycling Policy will be managed within normal business practices and annual budgets. The Ministry encourages the use of alternative funding.
5. Uniform signing and marking will be provided for cyclists on all provincial highways. (see reference material*)
6. The Cycling Policy and reference material will be monitored on a regular basis. The first review will be conducted no later than three years from the effective date. The process will include consultation with stakeholders.

NOTE: Reference material is subject to updating & change without formally changing the Ministry Cycling Policy.

* *Reference material is available in the Ministry of Transportation and Highways Cycling Guide.*

CONTACT:

Alan Callander, Policy Analyst
Systems Planning and Policy Branch

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
John Dyble
Assistant Deputy Minister
Highway Planning and Major Projects Department.