



**Complete
Streets**

tcat toronto centre for
active transportation



February 26, 2014

The Honourable Charles Sousa
Minister of Finance
c/o Budget Secretariat
Frost Building North, 3rd Floor
95 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z1

Sent by electronic mail to: submissions@ontario.ca

Dear Mr. Sousa,

Re: Pre-Budget Consultations 2014

Thank you for the opportunity to provide ideas and priorities in advance of the 2014 provincial budget.

The Toronto Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT), a project of the registered charity Clean Air Partnership, conducts research, develops policy recommendations, and creates opportunities for knowledge sharing, all with the goal of providing evidence and identifying workable active transportation solutions. We have identified two priority areas:

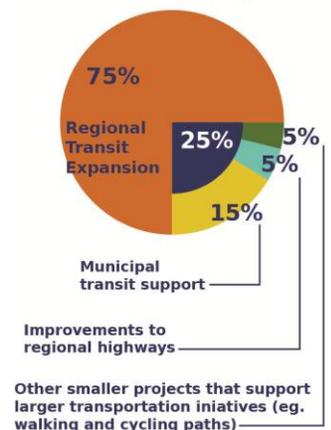
1. An annual, predictable funding commitment for the Metrolinx Big Move regional transportation plan is needed, with a dedicated investment in active transportation.

In 2013, TCAT carried out a project to document the current status of active transportation (AT) projects in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), build a case for support for increased investment in AT, and clarify the component of the 25% “Next Wave” projects in the Metrolinx Big Move regional transportation plan.

On September 12, 2013 TCAT released a report titled “The Other 25%: Active Transportation Investment and The Big Move”. Our main findings included:

- 1) Development and costing of the “Next Wave” transit projects is well underway, but the “other 25%” is not well articulated;
- 2) There is a significant lack of regional coordination around AT planning and investment;
- 3) There is a strong case for dedicated investment in AT as a component of The Big Move. On a typical workday, approximately 47% of car trips in a 24-hour period in the GTHA are less than 5 km, trips that could be easily made by walking or cycling instead but changes to our streets need to be put in place to support these modes.

Next Wave Projects



2. A dedicated annual provincial budget to build cycling infrastructure projects across Ontario needs to be created.

In 2013, TCAT was pleased to be invited to participate in Minister of Transportation Glen Murray's Cycling Strategy Working Group to provide advice and direction on the development of the first bicycle policy update in Ontario since 1992.

On August 30, 2013, #CycleON, Ontario's Cycling Strategy, was released. The strategy sets a 20-year vision that sets a clear direction to improve conditions for cycling and to promote cycling as a positive transportation choice.

What is needed now is implementation and funding to turn this great vision into concrete reality. There is a particular need for provincial cycling infrastructure funding for cycling facilities that are identified as part of a provincial cycling route network or where they are on, or cross, provincial infrastructure.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our priorities for the 2014 provincial budget. We appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



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