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March 12, 2010

Executive Policy Committee

Re: **Preliminary Operating Budget – Snow Clearing Budget for Multi-Use Paths**

Bike to the Future would like to express its support for the motion before the committee amending the snow clearing budget (item No. 4 Amendment to Snow Clearing and Ice Control Policy and the 2010 Preliminary Operating Budget) to increase funding by $500,000/year for the purpose of ensuring walkways within parks and all multi-use A.T. pathways have snow removal service. Bike to the Future is a voluntary, inclusive group of concerned citizens working to make cycling in Winnipeg a safe, enjoyable, accessible and convenient transportation choice year-round. This motion would go a long way to towards attaining this goal.

There is vast potential in Winnipeg to increase the number of cyclists riding year round. Many winter cities have embraced winter cycling as an integral part of their transportation planning, and have seen a substantial portion of summer cyclists continue cycling through winter as a result. In Montreal, where a "White Network" of cycling routes is maintained year round, 1/3 of cyclists ride year round. In Finland, 25% of cyclists in Oulo (just south of the Arctic Circle) ride year round, as do 27% of cyclists in Rovaniemi (on the Arctic Circle). Finish research has shown that 57% of cyclists could continue cycling in winter if maintenance was improved.

With approximately 5,000 cyclists entering the downtown every day in Winnipeg during the summer months, any increase in the percentage of cyclists riding year round will free up parking spaces in the downtown. Freed up parking spaces can then be converted into higher taxed uses, increasing the city's property tax revenue.

Sincerely,

Mark Cohoe
City Committee Chair
Bike to the Future

About Bike to the Future

We are a voluntary, inclusive group of concerned citizens working to make cycling in Winnipeg a safe, enjoyable, accessible and convenient transportation choice year-round.

We envision a city where cycling is embraced as the preferred mode of transportation, where cycling is integrated into urban design and planning, and where Winnipeg is recognized as a leader in cycling infrastructure and programs.