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July 7, 2021

Re: National Active Transportation Strategy and Fund

Greetings,

On behalf of the City of Mississauga, I am writing to provide our comments on the National Active Transportation Strategy and Fund.

### National Active Transportation Strategy

The City is pleased to see that the Federal Government's framework for the National AT Strategy captures so many critical elements. In particular, we are supportive of and would like to emphasize the following:

- Experience – equity in community engagement, project planning, design and operation of any government project, let alone active transportation, has never been more critical and never been more obviously required. The pandemic has forcefully opened our eyes to the inequitable circumstances that many find themselves victim to in our communities. Only by placing equity at the heart of what we do can we hope to make positive changes for all of those within our communities.
- Road Safety – the Federal Government has an important role to play in overall road safety, which should be reoriented with a focus on protecting vulnerable road users. For example, vehicle safety standards have a direct impact on the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. Vehicle design and dimensions, such as front end height, can affect the driver's visibility of vulnerable road users and the consequence of a collision with a pedestrian or cyclist. For example, mandating side guards for heavy trucks can protect pedestrians and cyclists from serious injury or death. Limiting in-dash entertainment system options could reduce distracted driving. The Federal Government should incorporate the goals and values from the Active Transportation Strategy into all aspects of transportation regulation.

- Land Use – active transportation is most feasible in communities that are built in ways that facilitate and encourage short distance trip making. The City of Mississauga is among the most rapidly urbanizing cities in Canada, and we understand the importance of supportive land use policies to increasing active transportation uptake. The Federal Government should consider the impact of any land use proposals or specific projects it reviews through the lens of active transportation.
- Public Health – as the only Canadian municipality participating in the Cities Changing Diabetes Programme, the City of Mississauga is committed to initiatives that improve the health of people in our community. Active Transportation is one of several initiatives that help tackle high rates of diabetes and put health at the centre of City policies to support a healthier society. The Federal Government should put equal emphasis on health in the AT Strategy.
- Data – the framework for the National AT Strategy acknowledges that data-driven and evidence-based decision-making is critical; the Census has tremendous potential to give City staff and decision-makers more reliable and timely data on transportation behaviour. Consider transportation-focused surveys like the Transportation Tomorrow Survey for examples of what type of detailed information is valuable.

#### National Active Transportation Fund

The City is eager to partner with the Federal Government to advance the proposed cycling and pedestrian networks that have been identified in our Cycling Master Plan (2018) and Pedestrian Master Plan (2021). The Federal Government should consider the following when reviewing submissions to the Fund:

- Not Just “Shovel-Ready” – While we acknowledge that the National AT Fund is a stimulus fund, we strongly encourage the Federal Government to be flexible in both its review of projects submitted by municipalities, and also in its ongoing monitoring and evaluation of projects submitted. While municipalities will no doubt be keen to apply for funding of shovel-ready projects, the reality is that most municipalities do not have a supply of shovel-ready projects on the shelf waiting to be funded. Therefore, the Federal Government should allow for municipalities to undertake planning, design and public engagement work for projects submitted for consideration.
- Vision Zero – The City of Mississauga is committed to the principles of Vision Zero, and is advancing strategic priorities that will work towards our goal of zero fatal and serious injury collisions on our roadways. Projects eligible for funding should emphasize not only the inclusion of linear active transportation infrastructure, but should also seek to improve overall road safety, consistent with the goals of Vision Zero.

I would be pleased to speak with you further regarding these comments if you have any questions or concerns. The City of Mississauga is excited to continue partnering with the Federal Government to improve active transportation for our residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bonnie Crombie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bonnie Crombie  
Mayor, City of Mississauga

c: Chris Fonseca, Councillor, Ward 3, City of Mississauga  
Paul Mitcham, City Manager, City of Mississauga  
Geoff Wright, Commissioner, Transportation and Works, City of Mississauga  
Helen Noehammer, Director, Infrastructure Planning and Engineering, City of Mississauga  
Matthew Sweet, Manager, Active Transportation, City of Mississauga