

September 1, 2016

Honourable Eddie Joyce
Minister of Municipal Affairs
Government of Newfoundland & Labrador
Confederation Building, PO Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Minister Joyce:

RE: Road User Guide and Active Transportation

The City of St. John's recently struck a task force to investigate how the City should move forward with its cycling initiatives. This Bike St. John's Task Force has a keen interest in ensuring that cycling is a safe activity for residents and visitors to the City.

One identified aspect to safe cycling is the education that road users receive. By ensuring that cyclists know the rules of the road, and that drivers know how to behave when driving around cyclists, the safety of those in our community can be improved.

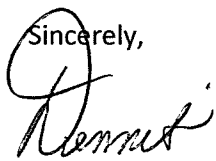
Currently the Province's Road User Guide¹ is a key resource in the education of drivers in the province. It also serves as a resource for those looking for an official resource on the rules of the road for all users. Unfortunately this vital tool does not cover how to drive when encountering a bicycle nor does it provide guidance to cyclists.

The Bike St. John's Task Force has identified an excellent opportunity for Newfoundland and Labrador to update the Road User Guide to address safe cycling on our roads. Guidance for pedestrians is another area that could be enhanced at the same time to ensure that the Road User Guide comprehensively covers the three main means of road use: driving, walking and cycling.

The Bike St. John's Task Force noted that other jurisdictions such as Nova Scotia² and Ontario³ already include guidance for cycling in their manuals. The City's Transportation Engineer chairs the Task Force and is familiar with the issues they have raised and the appropriate educational messages.

The City of St. John's would be happy to collaborate on an update to the Road User Guide through its Transportation Engineer.

Sincerely,



Dennis O'Keefe
Mayor, City of St. John's

¹ http://www.servicenl.gov.nl.ca/drivers/DriversandVehicles/driverlicensing/road_users_guide.pdf

² <https://www.novascotia.ca/sns/rmv/safe/handbook.asp>

³ <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/dandv/driver/handbook/section2.3.2.shtml>

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