



September 25, 2017

To Greater Sudbury City Council:

The Sustainable Mobility Advisory Panel (SMAP)'s mandate is: "To assist staff and Council in implementing a vision for a holistic approach to a multi-model transportation system where citizens can walk, cycle and/or use public transit efficiently and safely to get to their destinations."

Our vision is that citizens of Greater Sudbury can walk, cycle, roll and/or use public transit efficiently and safely to get to their destinations, whatever their age or ability.

We thank Council for their support of sustainable mobility in Greater Sudbury, and would like to provide the following recommendations regarding the 2018 municipal budget, to further advance transit and active transportation in our community.

### **1. We support making walking safer and easier by filling in gaps in our sidewalk network and improving winter sidewalk maintenance**

#### **a) We recommend increased funding to fill gaps in the sidewalk network as prioritized by the Sidewalk Priority Index.**

Currently, there is \$500,000 per year in the capital budget to build or repair sidewalks. This does not go far. Now that we have a Sidewalk Priority Index to help identify where new sidewalks are most needed, we recommend significantly increasing this amount, by **at least** 100% and preferably even more, to make significant progress in making walking safer and easier for residents.

#### **b) We support the budget option (requested by the Operations Committee) 'to provide "continuous" plowing and sanding service to sidewalks,' and we also support further improvements in sidewalk winter maintenance.**

Snow and ice on sidewalks create difficult barriers to walking in winter, especially for children, seniors, and people with limited mobility or using a scooter or wheelchair. Improving winter sidewalk maintenance allows more kids to walk to school, and allows more people to get out to meet their daily needs, exercise, and socialise. For many months of the year, improved winter sidewalk maintenance is a very important part of making walking safer and easier for residents.

### **2. We support setting aside money in Reserve to implement action items from upcoming plans and policy documents for sustainable mobility**

#### **a) We recommend allocating dollars for a reserve fund for the implementation of the Transit Action Plan**

The Transit Action Plan (expected to be completed by spring 2018) will provide important direction for improving transit service in Greater Sudbury. Allocating dollars to implement the recommendations of the Transit Action Plan will enable our community to benefit from improved routes, schedules, service and infrastructure more quickly.



**b) We recommend allocating dollars for a reserve fund for Transportation Demand Management programming implementation.**

The Transportation Demand Management Plan (expected to be finalized in early 2018) will provide important recommendations for policies, programs, and services that will allow Greater Sudbury's transportation system to be used most efficiently, and make it easier for people to use sustainable transportation modes to meet their daily travel needs. Allocating dollars to implement recommended programs will support the shift to sustainable transportation, and will have the complementary benefit of helping to increase ridership on our transit system, just as improvements to transit service are made.

**3. We support retrofitting boulevards for cycling where possible and appropriate on desired cycling routes**

**We recommend allocating resources for a systematic review of boulevards, and for retrofitting boulevards to create cycling infrastructure on desired cycling routes where possible.**

The updated Traffic and Parking By-law permits boulevards to be upgraded to cycle tracks where possible and appropriate. Reviewing boulevards and creating cycle tracks on desired cycling routes where possible is a cost effective way to significantly improve our network of cycling routes. Cycle tracks are separated from motor traffic and are welcoming to people of many skill levels and abilities. Connected and complete cycling routes allow many more people to use a bike to meet their daily travel needs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Your Sustainable Mobility Advisory Panel

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