

# REPORT ON WINTER CYCLING CONGRESS 2016 MINNEAPOLIS - ST. PAUL

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Kate Whitfield, P. Eng., MCIP, RPP  
Parsons





# “Family/Cargo Biking in Winter in Ottawa, Ontario”



# Walking. It's awful.

Winter is magical for children. They like to stop a lot. It's the worst. Dinner is at 6pm. You need to cook it. Get up. Stop climbing. Walk faster! C'mon!

And let's not forget...

**KIDS MEAN CARRYING  
STUFF**



# Transit.

- Children are terrible for transit. They will foil any attempts to arrive at a bus stop on time. Children don't do deadlines.
- Strollers barely fit on buses.
- I love you transit, but...

Schedules are for people who don't stop to collect rocks.



# A bit about me





**Existing Cycling Infrastructure in the Downtown (geoOttawa.com)**

Laurier Ave Segregated Bike Lane

# Sampling of Cycling Infrastructure under construction or opened in 2015



Adawe Crossing



Hickory Ped/Cycling Bridge



Main Street Cycle Track (under construction)

# At least 3 of 23 Municipal Councillors cycle to work in the winter



Councillor McKenney and Councillor Leiper on the Trillium Pathway, January 2016

# Second Coldest Capital in the World?

Winter means different things in different places (wind chill, freeze thaw cycles and amount of darkness)



Photo Credit: Ottawa Bike Lanes



Ottawa

# Transportation Master Plan



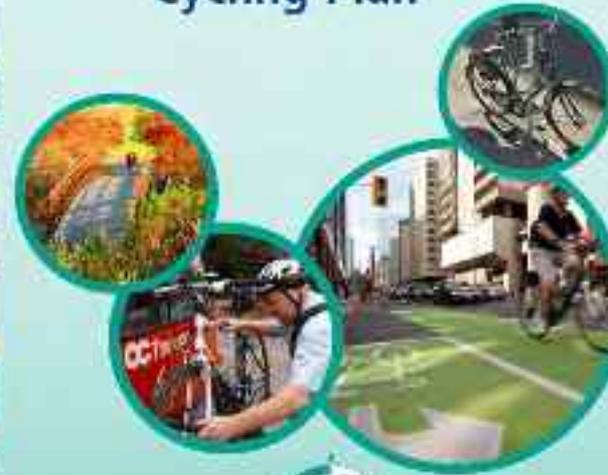
ottawa.ca

2014-2020



Ottawa

# Ottawa Cycling Plan



ottawa.ca

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# Ottawa Pedestrian Plan

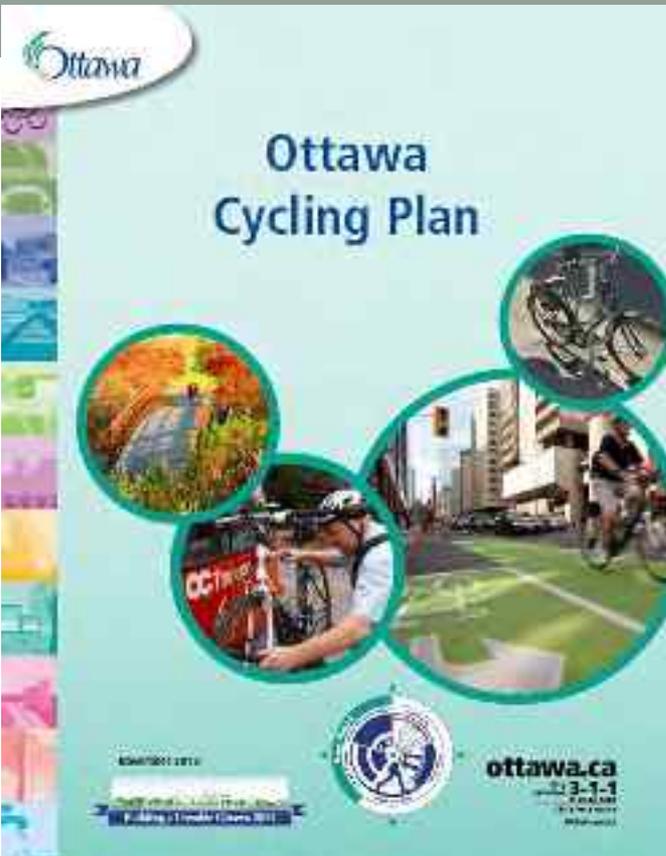


ottawa.ca

2014-2020



Plans Approved  
November 2013



- Approved in 2013 and set the stage for a “Strategic Initiative” which is part of the 2016 budget deliberations
- Wording of Plan lays out concept of Winter Cycling Network

**Strategic Initiative in 2016:**  
\$250,000 per winter season for four year

# Winter Cycling Network

- Approximately 40 km-long of winter-maintained cycling network
- Focussed within a 5 km radius of Ottawa's core area
- 21 km of this network are already winter maintained in some form



Photo Credit: Ottawa Bike Lanes

# Old Way

- No specific winter maintenance standard (other than the Laurier Avenue)
- Some on-road facilities and some MUPs cleared as part of regular policy
- Sidewalks to bare pavement in certain areas and snow packed treatment in others



# Old Way: Laurier Segregated Bike Lane

- City purchased Holder Tracker with plow, sander, sweeper, and snow blower
- Increased snow removal frequency of the street due to the decrease in storage space on the street
- “Overservicing” to bare pavement



Photo credit: [urbancommuter.wordpress.com](http://urbancommuter.wordpress.com)

# New Standard for On-Street Cycling Facilities

- plowed following **2.5 to 5.0 cm** of accumulation
- maintained to the same standard as the neighbouring sidewalk or vehicle travel lanes
- maintained to a **bare pavement standard**
- within 24 hours following the completion of snow accumulation



Photo Credit:  
Matthew  
Wesley-James

# New Standard for Raised Cycle Tracks

- plowed following **2.5 to 5.0 cm** of snow accumulation
- maintained to a **snow packed standard** with the exception of those adjacent to arterial roadways
- snow removal scheduled when snow banks are **encroaching on to 50%** of the existing width



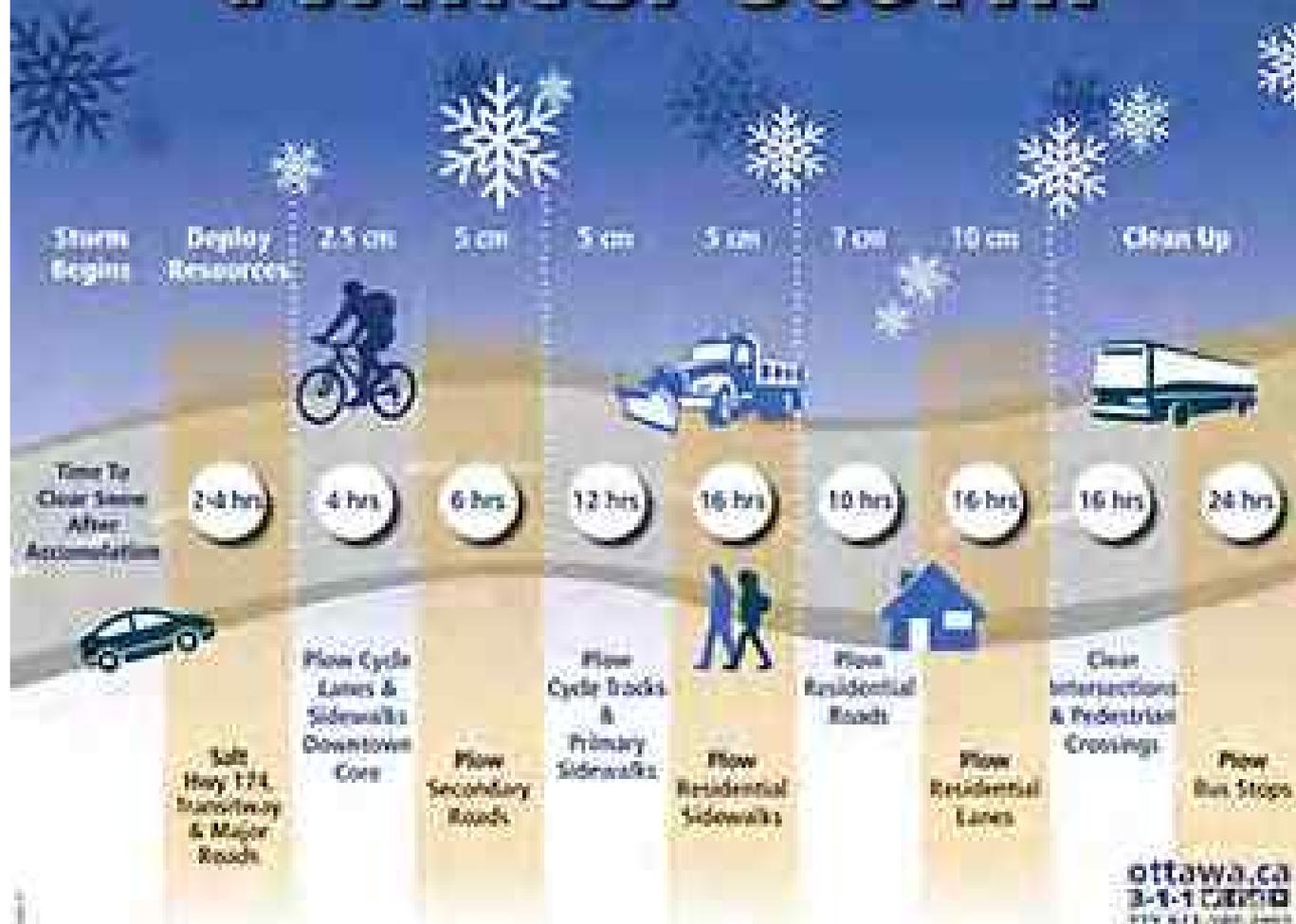
Photo Credit: Ottawa Bike Lanes

# New Standard for Multi-Use Pathways

- plowed following **2.5 to 5.0 cm** of snow accumulation
- maintained to **snow packed standard**
- Exception: some paved pathways on routes to transit and School to a **bare surface treatment**



# What to expect during a winter storm



# Designing for Winter

In order to facilitate snow clearing:

- Delineators/object markers not installed directly on the paved roadway but raised on curbs
- Minimum width of 1.8 m for cycling facilities constructed over bulb-outs



Photo Credit: Matthew Wesley-James

# Designing for Winter

- Multi-Use pathways in Ottawa are typically not lit
- Lighting provided as this pathway provides important connection to transit
- Snow clearing of the O-Train Pathway



# Changing the “Beat” and Cost



Photo Credit: Matthew Wesley-James



# Why is Ottawa getting its Winter Cycling Network?

- Latent demand
- Political Will
- Part of rationale for spending millions on cycling facilities



# What's next?

- 2016 Strategic Initiative with funding for four years
- Additions to the network?

O'Connor Street Bikeway – 27 Blocks coming in 2016/17



# Minneapolis-St. Paul



- Celebrate your snow clearing staff
- Bike Share!









- “Pedal Power” in the schools

We make winter cycling feel dangerous



- Campus life





- Protected network with shops and services  
Connecting different types of neighbourhoods

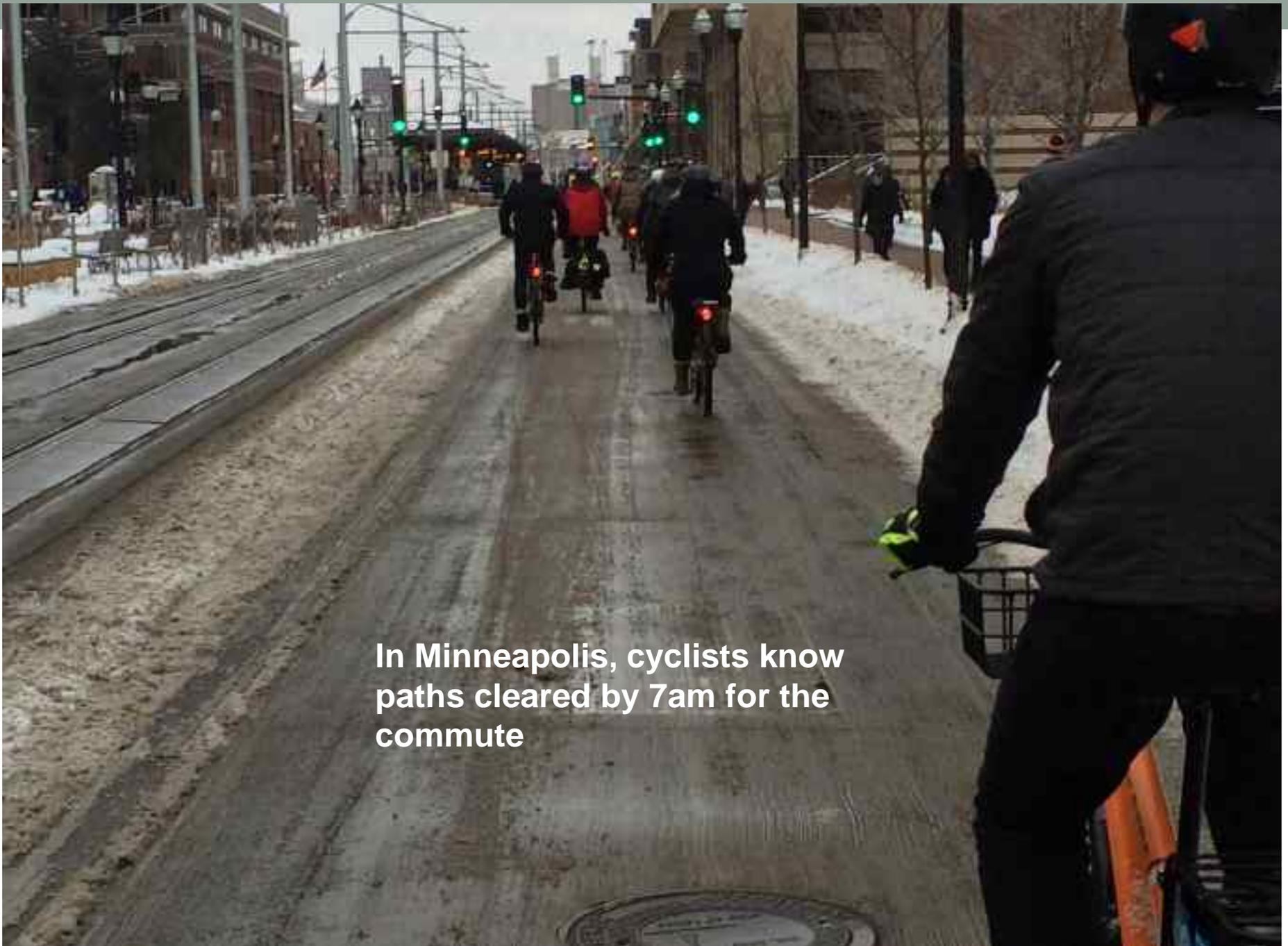




- Bike shop
- Café
- Indoor protected bike parking
- Office Space
- Hub

- Non-peak bike season and tourism promotion doesn't hibernate





**In Minneapolis, cyclists know  
paths cleared by 7am for the  
commute**

## 10. FUND FROM TRAFFIC TICKETS

  
CITY OF  
**CANMORE**  
**This project  
has been  
funded by  
Photo Radar  
revenues**



- Directed to projects that support walking and cycling



- This Little Bike Went to Market



# Winter Cycling Congress

Montreal - February 8-10, 2017



# envirocentre

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May is Bike to Work Month!