



Report of our activities in 2024



Board of Directors Report

A Message from the President On Behalf of the Board

Our AGM couldn't be more timely. As you've likely heard, our provincial government has decided to wage a war on bikes by planning to ban new bike lanes—let's call it what it is—and potentially rip out existing ones. The proposed legislation will require municipalities to have the Minister of Transportation approve any new bike lanes that take away lanes of traffic. Aren't people on bikes traffic? This is nothing more than electoral pandering in anticipation of an early election.

In response, a coalition of cycling advocacy organisations from across Ontario has emerged. Their work is only in its infancy. We'll be sure to communicate about it as it moves along. Let the fight begin!

Cycling has never been solely about bike lanes. We don't cycle in a bubble. We cycle to get around. Because it's practical; because it's reliable. It's an opportunity to disconnect, to enjoy your living environment as you're travelling. In turn, cycling contributes to happy, healthier cities.



Who doesn't like to see kids bike safely to school, which in turn means they're better able to focus in class? To see elderly people with newly-found mobility on two or three wheels? Or to see families with cargo bikes taking a break thanks to the shade provided by trees, with benches and fountains along the way? I'm very much looking forward to engaging with our panellists on what makes a healthy, livable city, and how cycling contributes to it.

On more prosaic matters, in the last year, our board saw one of its members resign for health reasons. We also lost our Data Working Group (DWG) and our Events Working Group (EWG) chairs. Our Advocacy Working Group chair stepped away, but fortunately board member Guillaume took over on an interim basis. All of this meant more work fell on the shoulders of board members, and we were down one (not easy).

Bikelash is alive and well. We have two years until the next municipal election, and potentially a provincial election even sooner. If you're interested in supporting our work, in helping to change the narrative, we'd welcome your help and creative energy. Tell your friends to [join](#) Bike Ottawa to help strengthen our message to politicians. [Volunteer](#) with us. We're looking for new AWG, DWG and EWG chairs and more. You don't have to be a board member to make a difference, but many hands make light work.



Report on 2023-2024 Activities

The following summarises Bike Ottawa's activities since the previous AGM, from December 17, 2023 to October 26, 2024.

Activity	Objective	Key Results
Membership	Build momentum and influence by increasing our membership numbers. Ensure that members see value in supporting the organisation.	<p>While our renewal rate has improved in recent years, new signups unfortunately declined in 2024, resulting in a net decrease in membership. Though the number of Bike Ottawa members is still in line with our historical average, we feel that it should be higher given the increase in cycling mode share in Ottawa over the last decade.</p> <p>The board should consider organising a dedicated membership campaign in 2025.</p>
Comms, Promotion, and Outreach	Increase awareness of the work of Bike Ottawa through social media channels.	<p>The social media landscape is evolving. People have scattered over various platforms, making it harder to reach them. We have broadened our presence and are now on Threads as well. We have increased cross posting and posting frequency across all the below platforms, and started microblogging regularly on our website, hoping to capture more readers.</p> <p>As of October 16, 2024, Bike Ottawa has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">3,090 Facebook followers (↑ 18%)7,016 Twitter/X followers (↑ 1%)1,323 Instagram followers (↑ 18%)655 Mastodon followers (↑ 8%)317 Bluesky followers (↑ 144%)553 Threads followers (new - 1st post February 10, 2024) <p>We need to increase the range of our communications products to engage citizens and decision makers alike on healthy, livable cities. Last year, one of our communications volunteers created a great poster on why bikes are good for business, and it's only the beginning.</p>
Partnerships	Leverage the power of partnerships with key organisations and stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Pedal Poll (Vélo Canada Bikes) Again this year, Bike Ottawa and a group of volunteers counted people on bikes across the city. From June 4th-9th, they captured data that provided a snapshot of what cycling looks like in our community. The data will be available at a later date.

Activity	Objective	Key Results
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bike Day on the Hill (Vélo Canada Bikes) Bike Ottawa coordinated resources to help VCB run the Bike Day on the Hill event for the second year in a row. This year we promoted e-bikes and e-cargo bikes to federal politicians as a gamechanger for urban mobility. World Bicycle Day (European Union delegation/Embassy of Poland) Bike Ottawa collaborated with the organising committee made up of the EU delegation, various embassies, and the NCC. We boosted social messaging to invite people to come, and took part in the WBD ride that took us from Confederation Park to Vincent Massey Park. Cycling Guide App (Cycling Guide Foundation) Funding from Bike Ottawa and generous donations from our members and the public, along with a corporate sponsorship donation from The Cycling Lawyer means that we have kicked off the testing and development of a mobile cycling app for the National Capital Region! We also submitted grant applications to the province of Ontario for more foundational funding, but were unsuccessful. We hope to have the testing and development work done over the next year with an official launch sometime in 2025. Winter cycling workshop (Retro Rides) After last year's success, there will be a repeat of this workshop. Again Retro Rides is generously providing their space. The presentation will be similar to last year's and Bike Ottawa will co-present. National Capital Commission A working relationship was established with the NCC, creating an open line of communication with an organisation whose activity has a lot of connection with active transportation, be they new projects or existing infrastructure. This should help our comments bear more weight and help improve current and future projects.

Activity	Objective	Key Results
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● City of Ottawa Recurrent meetings were set up with the Active Transportation Group within City Hall, with the goal to openly discuss our concerns and try to steer projects towards better cycling infrastructure.
Events	Building on past successful events, and grow the organisation's capacity to deliver and participate in events.	<p>In 2024, we attended community events across the city, from Stittsville to Bells Corners, Hunt Club Riverside, Centretown, and Manor Park. Our presence consisted of board members and/or volunteers who discussed Bike Ottawa and what we do, took feedback about the cycling needs of residents in different neighbourhoods, and helped those residents with strategies for pushing the city to address those needs. One conversation we regularly have outside the core is, how to get around without the need for a second car (think cargo bikes and bike parking for example, not to mention safe infrastructure).</p> <p>In the summer, we organised a picnic in the NCC Summer Zone on Queen Elizabeth Drive to celebrate our 40th anniversary. It was an opportunity to connect with residents, see how successful the new program is and encourage people to support the NCC to expand it.</p> <p>Bike Ottawa supported the growth of Kidical Mass and supported five events held across the city (Downtown, Alta Vista, Nepean, Orléans, and Mechanicsville). These events offered opportunities to expand connections into new areas of the cycling community and build connections with councillors, community associations, and partner organisations (School Streets Ottawa and For Our Kids Ottawa-Gatineau).</p> <p>We lost our Events Working Group chair early on, which hampered our efforts to do more. We'll need to revisit our events strategy in the coming year.</p>
Advocacy	Mobilise the public to engage informedly on infrastructure projects and respond to crises as they arise.	Despite the departure of the AWG chair, the group has pursued its mission, with the Ward Advocates organising response to specific projects in their neighbourhood, and the AWGers using the multiple engagement opportunities (surveys, public consultations) available.

Activity	Objective	Key Results
		<p>Pointed letters were also sent on the most crucial projects, like the Bank Street Active Transportation and Transit Priority feasibility study, or the BRT on Carling.</p> <p>Join our AWG.</p>
Data	Enable Bike Ottawa and other organisations to make informed decisions by giving them access to data and data visualisations.	<p>The Data Working Group lost its chairperson in the spring. It's currently on hold.</p> <p>Are you interested in becoming our new DWG chair? We're looking! Let us know.</p>
Media	Raise awareness on issues related to cycling, promote Bike Ottawa and cycling generally.	<p>Board members continue to be quoted or interviewed in many video, radio, and print news stories about all sorts of bicycle stories in Ottawa.</p> <p>Bike theft and Bike Parking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Results of a bike theft survey ● New bike locker project spinning its wheels <p>Chief William Commanda Bridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No one's gonna use it if it's closed ● Bridge could reopen soon <p>Carleton Pedestrian Bridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bridge opens "mistakingly" ● Bridge opens after delays, false start ● Bridge finally opens <p>Queen Elizabeth Drive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1.2 km stretch of QED to close to vehicles in the summer ● How would bike lanes work on QED ● Ottawa's bike lane debate continues <p>Collisions, deaths, safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● String of bike, scooter crashes ● La circulation dense contribue aux collisions ● Ottawa's road-safety education plan disappoints <p>Ontario Government plan to restrict bike lanes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bike lane debate: "blitzkrieg" on good planning? ● Ontario planning to restrict bike lanes

Activity	Objective	Key Results
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● L'Ontario songe à bannir certaines pistes cyclables ● Ottawa leaders uncertain over Ontario government's plan to restrict bike lanes ● Councillor warns of "culture war" ● Ontario moving to restrict bike lanes ● Ontario announcement: "frustration is an understatement" ● Des cyclistes dénoncent le projet de loi que veut déposer le gouvernement Ford <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advocates call for a bike-friendly Carling ● Councillor exploring the idea of car-free streets ● Safer cycling network still needed ● Bluesfest: how bike park got so big ● Cyclists want to treat stop signs as yield signs ● Flex posts drive us nuts

