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Ministry of
Transportation
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NEW HIGHWAYS POLICY TO BENEFIT B.C. CYCLISTS

VICTORIA – After lengthy consultation with a number of stakeholders, the ministry's cycling policy has been finalized, Transportation and Highways Minister Harry Lali announced today.

“We know cycling is a healthy lifestyle choice,” said Lali. “It helps create physical and mental well-being, and it benefits the environment, the economy and our society at large. We have adopted a new policy that ensures cyclists’ needs are considered in our plans.”

"This is a tremendous step forward for cyclists," said Francis van Loon, president of the British Columbia Cycling Coalition. “This new policy is a recognition of the legitimacy of cycling as a mode of transportation that has numerous health, environmental and economic benefits. We are looking forward to a continuing BCCC involvement with the ministry on the implementation of this policy.”

A provincial cycling co-ordinator position has been created to bring cycling interests forward. A provincial cycling advisory committee is also being established to help implement the policy and make sure it is applied correctly.

The new policy was written after consultation with cycling groups and is also based on concerns brought forward in a survey of cycling advocates and other interested groups. It establishes a review process to make sure levels of cycling traffic are considered when planning new and upgraded highway projects. Exceptions will only be granted after an evaluation of the route, including consultation with cyclists, finds there are clear and reasonable grounds for excluding cyclists.

"The advisory committee will provide a point of direct contact between my ministry and cyclists," said Lali. “Cyclists and local government will be involved throughout much of the project planning processes so that, as much as possible, highways and bridges are designed to accommodate cycling traffic.”

An information booklet with details about the policy will be ready for distribution later this spring.

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Contact: Debra Crozier-Smith, Senior Communications Co-ordinator
(250) 356-2279
Alan Callander, Provincial Cycling Co-ordinator
(250) 356-5563