



SUBMITTED BY EMAIL

February 18th, 2014

To: Councillor Shane Keating, Chair Standing Policy Committee Transportation & Transit

**Re: Bike Calgary Support for 1st Street SE Cycle Track**

Dear members of the committee:

Bike Calgary works to improve conditions for Calgarians who ride bicycles and to enable those who want to cycle to do so safely, efficiently, and comfortably. Our 1424 members represent all areas of the city, and we strive to connect Calgary's communities through bicycling.

We have been actively engaged in the consultation process for the centre city cycle track network through the Centre City Bicycle Projects Committee since its inception. Our comments and feedback have been heard and addressed, and we are fully supportive of the network in general and 1 St SE in particular.

As demonstrated in cities of all sizes and climates around the world and in our own city on 7 St SW, cycle tracks provide a safe and comfortable space for people of all ages and abilities to use their bicycles to get to where they want to go.

By giving people an obvious place to bike, cycle tracks discourage people from biking on the sidewalk, reducing conflicts with pedestrians. From the point of view of motorists, people biking in the cycle tracks are much more predictable, and the street becomes safer for all users.

Cycle tracks are an excellent financial investment, costing a fraction of the price of infrastructure for other modes, even when compared on a per-user basis. As a return on investment, cycle tracks

- Improve the public realm
- Increase revenues for local businesses
- Encourage people to get on their bikes, promoting active transportation and improving people's mental and physical health
- Help attract and retain workers to the city
- Help reduce worker absenteeism and increase productivity

1 St SE, specifically, provides a number of benefits. Through direct connections the Bow River and Elbow River pathways and proximity to LRT stops on the Red and Blue lines, the route improves city-wide access to Centre City. By directly connecting under the CPR tracks, it improves local access to downtown, Beltline, Cliff Bungalow-Mission, Chinatown, and East Village.

The route gives residents, commuters, and tourists access to a number of important

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destinations: several retail areas; restaurants; the theatres and concert halls at Epcor Centre; Stephen Avenue; Olympic Plaza; Glenbow Museum; Stampede grounds; Chinatown; the Talisman Centre and Lindsay Park; as well as numerous office towers and other places of work.

Bike Calgary applauds the initiative shown by the City to offer a safe, comfortable, and healthy way to move around the city. We encourage you to move quickly to implementation on these improvements so that Calgarians and our visitors can begin to benefit from the investment.

Yours sincerely,

Kimberley Nelson

President, Bike Calgary