

Mr. Gord Johns, MP  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A1

May 16, 2018

**Re: Support for private Members bill C-312 – National Cycling Strategy**

Dear Mr. Johns MP,

Transportation Options Association of Ontario would like to endorse your efforts to pass the private Members bill C-312 that calls for a National Cycling Strategy.

Transportation Options Association of Ontario is a non-profit organization that for over twenty years has been dedicated to fostering sustainable mobility and tourism solutions across Ontario, developing and supporting a range innovative programs.

A large proportion of our current work includes significant programming under Ontario By Bike, much of which supports the development and promotion of cycle tourism in Ontario. We work with all the tourism agencies in our province, have the largest bicycle friendly business certification program in North America, and have an engaged community of cyclists that use our resources for planning bicycle trips, touring, attending events and more in Ontario. Ontario By Bike grew out of the Bike Train Initiative, (2007-2011) in which we worked with VIA Rail, Ontario Northland and GO Transit to increase bike transportation options with rail providers in Ontario.

Our work involves many partnerships with a diverse group of stakeholders both in the public and private sectors. Recently we have worked on the Ontario Cycling Strategy, as sub-consultants and have participated on the Government of Ontario's Minister's Advisory Committee for cycling. We have seen the positive progress that the strategy and ensuing actions have had in Ontario.

We have also recently had the pleasure of speaking with the Chief Executive at Sustrans, an organization that is getting more people walking and biking across the UK and through that became aware of the Government of England's Cycling and Walking Strategy published in 2017. This is something that the Government of Canada may want to look reference.

# Ontario By Bike Bike Train Initiative Parkbus

Website: [www.transportationoptions.org](http://www.transportationoptions.org)

Adding value to the work that many public and private sector partners and stakeholders across Canada are undertaking, a comprehensive National Cycling Strategy would provide a more cohesive and coordinated direction to grow cycling as an active form of transportation and recreation, both of which would have significantly positive health and economic benefits - and within that be beneficial for cycle tourism, our area of focus with programming undertaken by Ontario By Bike.

We have reacted out to our local MP, Julie Dabrusin (Toronto – Danforth) and as we have had recent contact with her regarding our programming, have asked her whether or not she is in support of Bill C-312. We anticipate she will reply that yes she is, considering we have had a preliminary conversation about this with her earlier in 2018 and know that she herself is an active cyclist.

We look forward to hear more about the progress and eventual passing private Members bill C-312.

If we can do more to assist your efforts, please do let us know.

Yours truly,



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