

Applying the Policy

The Ministry of Transportation has established a process for implementing the policy when building new highways or upgrading existing provincial routes. A thorough route evaluation is an important early step.

The evaluation will help ministry staff find ways to design and construct cycling facilities that will encourage and accommodate cycling. The evaluation process is based on the existing ministry principles and design standards for cyclists.

Occasionally, evaluation results may conclude that cycling is not feasible on a route. There are four reasons why cyclists might need to be excluded from using a particular road:

- There may not be a feasible way to ensure cyclist safety when using the route. For example, a cliff face along the edge of the road may make it impossible to build a facility wide enough for cyclists to share the road safely.
- The cost of changing the road to accommodate cyclists may be too high given the number of people that might choose to cycle the route.
- An existing provincial Act or a municipal bylaw specifically prohibits cycling along that route.
- Cycling is not in the greater public interest. This may include situations where the changes necessary to accommodate cyclists could damage environmentally-sensitive sites or infringe onto sacred aboriginal lands.

Some of the evaluation methods and other policy requirements may change in the future as new methods are found to deal with cycling needs. The Cycling Coordinator and the Provincial Cycling Advisory Committee are responsible for monitoring and reviewing the cycling policy. The next review of the policy is scheduled for the spring of 2003.

Cycling Information

If you have concerns about particular roads, you should first contact the ministry's district, regional or project offices.

Further information about the cycling policy is available by contacting the Cycling Coordinator by e-mail at MOTCYCLING@gems1.gov.bc.ca. You can also check the Ministry of Transportation Internet Web site at

www.gov.bc.ca/tran

for information on cycling news and programs.



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Cycling Policy and Guidelines Summary



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Cycling Policy and Guidelines

Cycling is an increasingly popular way to get around. It is a healthy, environmentally friendly and low-cost transportation choice that is available to people of many ages, skill levels and interests. From children to seniors, occasional users to experienced commuters, all cyclists are legitimate road users. The British Columbia Ministry of Transportation (MoT) is looking at ways to help them safely enjoy their cycling.


The ministry's new cycling policy was announced on February 17, 2000. Based on public consultation, the policy makes sure that when new provincial routes are planned and developed, or existing ones upgraded, cycling needs will be considered.


To support the policy, MoT created a Cycling Coordinator position and a Cycling Advisory Committee. The Cycling Coordinator's job is to

provide advice to ministry staff and our stakeholders about the policy. The Advisory Committee members represent a variety of road users, from motorists to cyclists. Their task is to assist the ministry in planning, designing, constructing and managing cycling facilities. Their main focus will be provincial issues, such as changes to the ministry's policy, guidelines, standards and programs.


Ministry of Transportation and Highways Cycling Policy


Cycling benefits the Province's environment, its economy, the health of its people and society at large. It is the goal of the Ministry to integrate bicycling by providing safe, accessible and convenient bicycle facilities on the Province's highways and to support and encourage cycling. Cycling supports the Ministry's mandate to provide British Columbians with an integrated multi-modal transportation system.


 Provisions for cyclists are made on all new and upgraded provincial highways. All exceptions to this Policy will be subject to an evaluation procedure, as described in the reference material.

 Route evaluations that impact cyclists will include consultations with cycling stakeholders. An evaluation can be


applied on existing routes to identify measures that will improve cycling conditions.

 The Ministry will involve cycling interests and local government officials responsible for cycling in all highway planning consultations. Municipal bicycle advisory committees, the Provincial Cycling Advisory Committee, and/or recognized cycling advocacy organizations can be utilized to provide advice on cycling needs, facilitate issues and to monitor the effectiveness of the Cycling Policy.

 To accommodate the safety and travel requirements for different types of cyclists, the Ministry will plan, design and build for the appropriate type of cyclist based on the type of facility.

 The cost of meeting the Cycling Policy will be managed within normal business practices and annual budgets. The Ministry encourages the use of alternative funding.

 Uniform signing and marking will be provided for cyclists on all provincial highways (see reference material).

 The Cycling Policy and reference material will be monitored on a regular basis. The first review will be conducted no later than 3 years from the effective date. The process will include consultation with stakeholders.

NOTE: Reference material is subject to updating and change without formally changing the Ministry Cycling Policy.
