

Executive Summary





Who We Are

Saint John Cycling (SJC) is a group dedicated to promoting cycling both on and off road throughout the Saint John region. We have a social media following in excess of 500 including a good base of activists and volunteers lobbying and working for the cause. Some of our projects are as follows:

- design, construction and maintenance of mountain bike trails in Rockwood Park,
- Design, construction and maintenance of Mountain Bike Skills Park in Rockwood Park scheduled to open Oct 3, 2015
- Ongoing meetings and dialogue with the City of Saint John and outlying towns regarding upgrading and maintenance of bike lanes, sharrows, and cycling infrastructure in general
- Sponsorship of an IMBA course on mountain bike trail building and an upcoming Can-Bike course scheduled for Oct 17th
- Ongoing advocacy collaboration with the Fredericton “Folks on Spokes” cycling club addressing provincial cycling issues.
- Participate in and assist with bike rodeos and BMX park openings in the Greater Saint John area
- Promotion of Safety, education and cooperation for all modes of transportation on Provincial roadways



Folks on Spokes is a Fredericton based cycling group for seniors aged 50 and older, with just under seventy registered members. Their activities include but are not limited to the following;

- Participate in organized weekly rides from the Fredericton Trail Visitor Centre on Tuesdays as well as Thursday rides.
- Twice yearly visits of other areas of the province of New Brunswick for three or four day cycling tours/vacations.
- Members have formed an advocacy group (Capital Region Bicycle Action Committee) to promote modernization of New Brunswick cycling legislation, cycling tourism, cycling safety and are actively working with SJC and other cycling clubs in the area
- Participate on the Fredericton Trials Coalition Board as a member to promote the use and development of the greater Fredericton area trails.
- Participate in, and support fundraising events for local charities
- Act as ambassadors for cyclists from areas outside of NB introducing them to the trails around the greater Fredericton region.

Cycling tourism has great potential in New Brunswick given its' relatively low traffic volume rural roadways with fantastic scenery spaced between friendly communities eager to share local culture. Modern Cycling friendly legislation is required to enhance the relationship of all roadway users. Promotion of cycling friendly legislation, cooperation of all road users, cycling friendly road treatments and cycling tourism will provide above all more safety for cyclists throughout the Province. The financial benefits to the Provincial economy will follow immediately.





Objectives and Benefits of 1 Meter Law

Many European countries, Provinces of Ontario and Nova Scotia and 26 States in USA have adopted 1 metre laws which simply provides a legal definition of safe passing clearance between vehicles and cyclists. As with all laws, the intent is to provide safety guidelines for all road users to follow. Education of all road users is of paramount importance ensuring consistent behavior throughout our Province. There have been convictions in Nova Scotia and in the USA which indicates the law is enforceable. The emphasis has to be on education but we must provide a tool for police to use if an infraction occurs.

In addition to the 1 metre law, other changes and additions to sections of the current Motor Vehicle Act are proposed in order to modernize the Act in keeping with current cycling culture, active transportation methodologies and technology, by:

- a) Adding rules respecting bicycle lanes
- b) Modernizing the description of a bicycle
- c) Making specific the rules regarding bicycles on sidewalks
- d) Replacing unclear and dated terminology and rules regarding cycling on the extreme right of a roadway
- e) Allowing local authorities to designate sidewalks as trails and regulate the use of bicycles there on

The mutual respect between motor vehicles drivers and cyclists is readily observable in New Brunswick, excepting a few who may need more education and good laws to keep the public safe. A good set of modern, measurable and enforceable laws along with the educational processes to provide the public users and police enforcers with the tools to stay current, safe on the roadways are required. Good legislation followed by good education fosters understanding and cooperation which in turn provides safety for not only cyclists but all users of our roadways, sidewalks, paths and trails.

The attached document contains proposed legislation to increase cycling safety in the province of New Brunswick by adopting a one metre law, essentially making it illegal to pass a cyclist on the road within one meter. It also modernizes legislation governing cycling by adding rules respecting bicycle lanes, cycling on sidewalks, and the description of bicycles, riding on the extreme right and finally allowing local authorities to designate sidewalks as trails and regulate the use of bicycles on them in their respective areas.



We believe this modernization is an important and needed change to legislation affecting cycling for the following reasons:

- Safety is the primary concern of cyclists when riding on, and sharing the roads with motorized vehicles. This legislation will improve the safety of cyclists, decreasing serious injury and even death. The importance of this cannot be overstated in our society of legislated safety regulations and liability issues.
- By providing for a one metre spacing between motorized traffic and cyclists we increase the safety factor and encourage reluctant cyclists to take to the road thereby improving the health of New Brunswickers, lowering health care costs, lowering carbon emissions and promoting a greater sense of community.
- The adoption of this legislation will increase the visibility of New Brunswick as a safer destination for touring and recreational cyclists from other provinces in Canada, USA and Europe.
- Provides police, courts and government with up to date, and more effective legislation to deal with vehicle and cycling infractions
- The current legislation is outdated and will be modernized in its descriptions and terminology for modern bicycles types, designated bike lanes, trails and cycling on sidewalks.
- The very act of legislative discussion and refining of the one metre rule for cycling will raise the profile of cycling in New Brunswick and announce to the public at large that this government is serious about cycling safety, cycling tourism and encouraging cycling as a means of exercise and health promotion with all its positive benefits.



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