



## HEALTHY COMMUNITIES • SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

May 4, 2017

Ms. Monica Russell  
Senior Policy Analyst  
Ministry of Transportation  
Policy and Planning Division  
Transportation Planning Branch  
Environmental Policy Office (Toronto)  
777 Bay Street, Suite 3000  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J8

### Identifying a Province-wide Cycling Network, EBR 013-0190

Dear Ms. Russell,

On behalf of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI), I am submitting the Institute's response with regard to *Identifying a Province-wide Cycling Network*. We are pleased the Ontario Ministry of Transportation is taking action on cycling as part of the province's #CycleON Action Plan 1.0 in identifying key routes throughout Ontario.

While OPPI applauds the Ministry in taking the significant step to identify routes of key importance, creating a well-connected aimed at showcasing the province as a tourism destination and connecting municipal corridors; there is still work to be done by planners at all levels. It is utmost that investment be sustainable and made in separated facilities that accommodate cyclists of various ages, abilities and trip purposes to attract an increasing ridership – especially in less urban areas requiring greater access for goods and services.

It is important that upgrades and Provincial guidelines, similar to the Provincial highway system, lend priority to the best chosen cycling routes and strive for best practices in regular maintenance rather than those that are more specialized and expensive. We look forward to confirmation of a preferred province-wide network towards an implementation strategy that is fair and equitable across Ontario.

We would also like to note that the province-wide cycling network can also play a pivotal role in *Places to Grow* towards increasing modal share of cycling, for all trip purposes. As community planners, we understand and encourage the planning of networks for active transportation – walking and cycling – as a key part of healthy and sustainable communities.

OPPI is the recognized voice of the Province's planning profession. Our almost 4,500 members work in a range of Government Ministries and agencies, including municipalities and conservation authorities, and in private practice, in fields that include urban and rural development and transportation planning. OPPI members meet quality practice requirements and are accountable to OPPI and the public to practice ethically and to abide by a Professional Code of Practice. Only Full Members are authorized by the Ontario Professional Planners Institute Act, 1994, to use the title "Registered Professional Planner" (or "RPP").

We welcome the opportunity to review future Province-wide Cycling Network strategies. Should you have any further questions, please contact me at 416-668-8469 or by email at [l.ryan@ontarioplanners.ca](mailto:l.ryan@ontarioplanners.ca)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Ryan', followed by a horizontal line.

Loretta Ryan, RPP, CAE  
Director, Public Affairs  
Ontario Professional Planners Institute