

## Nova Scotia Bikeways Report

### **Scoping the Blue Route: infrastructure inventory, route mapping, and feasibility of implementation for a provincial bikeways network.**

Report prepared by Eastwind Cycle Consultants for Bicycle Nova Scotia, with support from Health Promotion and Protection, January 2009.

***Vision:*** All municipalities in Nova Scotia are accessible by safe bikeways, and bicycle infrastructure planning becomes integrated into transportation planning at the municipal and provincial level. Nova Scotia develops a culture of cycling that involves residents as well as visitors from near and far.

Bicycle transportation infrastructure offers well documented health, economic, and environmental benefits.

Bicycle networks already exist in some provinces in Canada, as well as in many other countries. Nova Scotia, too, would benefit from a well-designed and integrated cycling network as part of a transportation network.

Several municipalities in Nova Scotia have developed their own plans for bicycle routes and infrastructure, yet there is no overall plan for a provincial bikeways network.

The report outlines

- existing initiatives related to creating a bicycle culture in Nova Scotia,
- the potential for economic development through increased tourism opportunities,
- recommendations for policy development,
- organizational infrastructure, and
- potential cycling routes, to achieve the bikeways vision.

Individuals and organizations involved in cycling in Nova Scotia were consulted.

Consultations with provincial government departments were conducted and departmental mandates were reviewed to identify how a provincial bikeways network might become an interdepartmental endeavour.

Key recommendations from the report include:

- development of a provincial bicycle policy that is fully integrated into transportation planning,
- creation of a non-government organization with the mandate to assist municipalities with the planning and implementation of bicycle routes, including cycling education,
- bicycle infrastructure, including paved shoulders, designated lanes, and low traffic routes with appropriate signage to be immediately considered for areas where there is local demand,
- cycling be included as an economic development strategy, particularly in rural areas, through tourism marketing and planning,
- through policy development, organizational capacity building, government leadership and education, a culture of cycling be fostered and encouraged throughout Nova Scotia.