

# City gets cash boost for downtown cycling path

## Bi-directional separated cycling lane worth the ride: cyclist

### Cycling path

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By [Michelle Nash](#)

A \$325,000 boost in funding will help make riding along MacKenzie Avenue a little safer for cyclists.

The funding is thanks to the province's \$10 million Ontario Municipal Cycling Infrastructure Program, which will help pay to build a separated cycling lane along the avenue from Rideau to Murray Streets.

Ottawa-Centre MPP Yasir Naqvi made the announcement in Major Hill's Park on March 29. Mayor Jim Watson, Rideau-Vanier Coun. Mathieu Fleury, Ottawa-Vanier MPP Madeleine Meilleur and Dr. Mark Kristmanson, chief executive officer of the National Capital Commission joined Naqvi for the funding announcement.

Watson said he was looking forward to the project beautifying the street, and thanked U.S. Ambassador Bruce Heyman for working with the city and both levels of government on the project.

**"Cycling greatly contributes to reducing congestion in our cities and it is also a good way to stay healthy while respecting the environment." — Ottawa-Vanier MPP Madeleine Meilleur**

The project will also finally remove the cement barriers that are in front of the U.S. Embassy. The costs will be shared amongst the four partners: the city, province, NCC and U.S. embassy.

Excited about the project, and on-hand to hear the announcement was avid cyclist and Walk Ottawa advocate Chris Bradshaw.

"I will definitely use it more often," Bradshaw said.

Bradshaw admits that when taking that route at this he would jump on to the sidewalk for safety. The new lane, he said, will not only stop cyclists from doing that, but also bring more people out on their bikes.

He added he also liked how the low-level curb close to Rideau Street is pedestrian-friendly.

“Complete street designs are meant for all people using the streets, not just cyclists,” he said.

Meilleur said she is pleased that the lane will offer a safe, effective way to get around.

“This funding is great news for the City of Ottawa,” she said. “It will improve our cycling infrastructure while providing a safe bike path. Cycling greatly contributes to reducing congestion in our cities and it is also a good way to stay healthy while respecting the environment.”

The Mackenzie Avenue cycling corridor compliments Confederation Boulevard, said the NCC’s Kristmanson.

“I thank the province of Ontario for their contribution to this project which will advance our efforts to foster active transportation in the urban core and build a more connected and vibrant Capital Region,” he said.

The two-year, \$10 million Ontario Municipal Cycling Infrastructure Program was announced in July 2015. Municipalities were eligible to apply for funding for up to 50 per cent of the total costs of a cycling infrastructure project to the maximum amount of \$325,000.

According to the province, 51 municipalities have applied for funding and approved projects will be announced between April 1, 2016, and March 31, 2018.