



Calgary tour de nuit Society

April 14, 2011

Don Mulligan
Director
Transportation Planning
City of Calgary
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Mr. Mulligan:

At the first meeting of the City's citizen's cycling committee on July 22, 2010, Transportation Department staff were requested to provide the committee with itemized cycling expenditures (capital and operational) made by the City of Calgary as its annual commitment to promoting cycling as an alternative to single occupant vehicle transportation. The same request for financial information was made through the City's 311 system and would have fallen within the scope of a FOIP request made last year.

Four months later, on November 29, 2010, the Calgary *tour de nuit* Society was in an awkward situation addressing the new city council in a public budget session without any financial information about current cycling expenditures.

When the third and final meeting of the cyclists' committee was finally convened on March 3, 2011, the agenda (set by your staff) did not include any discussion of the City's cycling budget nor was any financial information presented to the committee. A financial analyst from the Transportation Department was not present and not one ever attended any committee meeting. In response to a verbal reminder about the July request for detailed financial information, I was told by your staff the Department spends four per cent on pedestrian and cycling modes.

The City of Calgary is in an advanced stage of planning its next three year budget cycle and obviously an itemized accounting by the Transportation Department would allow the commuter cycling community the opportunity to ask the right questions, make informed suggestions on the most effective and efficacious strategies to promote active and sustainable transportation in Calgary. It would also be an example of a transparent exercise by your department in response to several reasonable requests from the public and members of your citizen's cycling committee.

Please advise me when you are expecting to make this financial information public and respond to this request for transparency by the Calgary *tour de nuit* Society. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gary Beaton
President

