



# Chain Mail

## By Citizens for Safe Cycling (CfSC)

Volume 31, Issue 1, Spring 2015

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### New Bikeways, Bridges and Connections

The City has shared a proposed plan for a north-south O'Connor **bikeway** through downtown. If the plan is adopted by the Transportation Committee, O'Connor Street will soon include a bi-directional segregated bike lane. This would connect the Laurier bike lane with Lansdowne Park.

Two new pedestrian and cycling **bridges** recently opened: one crosses the Airport Parkway, linking nearby neighbourhoods with the Trillium Line station at South Keys. Another crosses the Queensway between the baseball stadium and the VIA Rail station, which will provide a useful link to the LRT station that will be built there. Two other bridges are being built: one over the Rideau River to connect Sandy Hill's Strathcona Park with Overbrook and Vanier, and another across the O-Train tracks to connect Hickory Street and Adeline Street, providing an alternative to crossing the tracks at Carling.



The NCC will install a safer **connection** to the eastern canal pathway this year at the intersection of Clegg Street and Colonel By Drive. Improvements will include installation of signals and crossrides, similar to those pictured above at Fifth Avenue and Queen Elizabeth Drive. Last year the City made efforts to improve access

to cycling paths beside the Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway by adding a short stretch of bike lanes leading up to the Parkdale **connection**, alerting motorists to cyclists. Related signage is expected to be installed this year.

### Release of 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Report on Bicycling in Ottawa

For the fourth year in a row, CfSC volunteers have pulled together an overview of the state of cycling in Ottawa in the *Annual Report on Bicycling*. The 2015 Report features the usual list of Top Ten recommendations to improve cycling in the city, grades on progress towards each of last year's recommendations, as well as a number of new features. With three levels of government—municipal, provincial, and the National Capital Commission—working on projects that directly affect cycling in Ottawa, the Report aims to provide a comprehensive picture that is otherwise difficult to piece together.

Get the full Report online at [www.bikeottawa.ca](http://www.bikeottawa.ca).

### Projects to Watch

#### *Cycling in the 2015 Ottawa Budget*

This year, money for cycling infrastructure was not in the transportation budget, but was pushed into a pot of money for "Strategic Initiatives" under the broad category of "neighbourhood road safety, including pedestrian and cycling mobility". This means that instead of having an institutionalized place within the transportation budget, the funding of cycling infrastructure by Council remains to be deliberated in spring/summer 2015.

In the lead-up to decisions on how to spend the 2015 Strategic Initiatives funds, CfSC is reminding Council of the goal of committing dollars on cycling proportional to the percentage of trips taken by bicycle in the city, and will push for spending on cycling infrastructure to resume its place in the transportation budget in 2016.

### Rehabilitation of Mid-Town Queensway Bridges

The Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) plans to replace/rehabilitate twelve Queensway crossings over mid-town Ottawa roads from Holland Avenue to O'Connor Street. CfSC is urging the MTO and the City to consider how reconstruction, which will impact current and future options for improving infrastructure in these pinch points, could be an opportunity to make underpasses safer for cyclists and pedestrians.

These are just two examples of projects CfSC is following on behalf of Ottawa's cyclists. Find out more on the advocacy section of our website and learn how you can join our Advocacy Working Group, which coordinates our advocacy efforts.

### Upcoming Events

#### Bike to Work Month – May 2015

May is Bike to Work Month! Brought to you by the City of Ottawa and coordinated by EnviroCentre, the campaign engages individuals and workplaces in a celebration of cycling and encourages residents to bike all or part of the way to work. Logging the kilometres you ride makes you eligible for \$7000 in great prizes including an overnight for two at the Wakefield Mill Inn and Spa and a new commuter bike from MEC. To join in, sign up online at [www.biketoworkottawa.ca](http://www.biketoworkottawa.ca). For more information and resources, please contact [transport@envirocentre.ca](mailto:transport@envirocentre.ca).

#### Tulips on Two Wheels – May 9, 2015

CfSC will be offering free tune-ups and general information for people cycling to see the tulips. We'll be by the Canal on Queen Elizabeth Drive and will post details of our precise location on our website as the date approaches. If the weather is dismal we may cancel at short notice—if in doubt, check our Twitter account (@CfSC\_Ott) for updates on the day of the event.



#### RBC Bluesfest Bike Parking – July 8-19, 2015

A CfSC tradition since 2006, we will once again offer bike parking at Bluesfest. This great service is completely coordinated by volunteers like those pictured above, who parked our 50,000<sup>th</sup> bike last year. It's free, but we love to see a donation—it is our biggest source of income after our membership contributions.

#### Annual General Meeting – October 5, 2015

Word has it that ours is the most fun AGM in town. That's because the 100 or so cyclists who attend (including non-members!) are often friends. This is the place to meet lots of new faces and learn about cycling in our city. This year's keynote speaker is Eric Darwin, writer of the planning blog [Westsideaction.com](http://Westsideaction.com). Look for details on our website closer to the date.

### Traffic Markings Q&A for Cyclists and Drivers

**Q: What do Sharrows & Super (Green) Sharrows Mean?**

**A: Cyclists** should ride through the centre of sharrows, which indicate where you can keep a safe distance from the curb, parked cars, and other traffic. Sharrows signal to **drivers** that they must share the lane with cyclists and treat them as motor vehicles. If sharrows are in the middle of a lane, drivers should remain behind cyclists or change lanes to pass.



**Q: What do Bike Boxes Mean?**

**A: A green bike box**, as pictured above, is used at intersections to designate a space for **cyclists** to wait in front of cars at a red light, and to proceed through the intersection first when the light turns green, followed by **drivers**. **Cyclists** should not pass on the right of a vehicle to get to a bike box if there is no designated cycling lane, unless the vehicle being passed is about to turn left.

**Q: What do Yellow Dots Mean?**

**A: These indicate where to place your bike** to prompt lights to change. If they've worn off, in many cases you can still see the lines cut in the pavement where the wires were inserted for the detection loop. Try to place your bike lengthwise on top of the lines, and call 3-1-1 to report the problem so that the City will re-apply the dots.

### Learn More and Stay Tuned

For more information and updates on cycling infrastructure in Ottawa, our advocacy work, related events, and resources on safe cycling, visit our website:

[www.bikeottawa.ca](http://www.bikeottawa.ca)

### Join CfSC—Become a Member!

Citizens for Safe Cycling is your local bicycle advocacy group, promoting safer cycling since 1984. Our organisation is 100% volunteer-run and doesn't receive any grants: our income comes solely from donations and membership fees.

That is why we need your support. Memberships are available on our website for as little as \$10:

[www.bikeottawa.ca/index.php/membership](http://www.bikeottawa.ca/index.php/membership)

Membership will get you discounts at an array of local bike shops, and our volunteers show appreciation for your dues and donations by poring over plans, writing letters, meeting with councillors and speaking at committees.

*Comments? Suggestions? Story ideas? Email Hayley Price at [editor@bikeottawa.ca](mailto:editor@bikeottawa.ca)*

*All photos courtesy of CfSC President Hans Moor.*