



#BIKETORIA Summit Brings International Cycling Experts To Victoria

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – A 30 km network of new bike lanes for all ages and abilities is recommended for Victoria, positioning the Capital City as a world leader in cycling infrastructure, and for soon being known as “Biketoria”. A team of internationally renowned cycling experts have analyzed the City’s existing infrastructure and policies, to recommend a network that will be within 400 metres of every school and almost half of every resident by the end of 2018. The recommended network is now widely available for public feedback and involvement.

The #BIKETORIA Summit will kick off a one month conversation about the network and its potential, starting on November 1, 2015. International planning and cycling experts, Gil Penalosa, Founder and Chair of 8 80 Cities, and Mia Birk, CEO of Alta Planning + Design, will be speaking at the #BIKETORIA Summit on November 1 from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Victoria Convention Centre.

Penalosa and Birk are part of an international team of cycling experts who are working to design a world-class bike network for Victoria. The team also includes local engineering and planning firm Urban Systems, as well as leading international cycling firm Gehl Architects.

At the #BIKETORIA Summit, Penalosa and Birk will speak about the future of biking in Victoria and share their insights into how the city can capitalize on its moderate climate, beautiful surroundings, and flat terrain to become a cycling paradise. Their presentations will show examples of world class bike facilities from around the globe and explain how and where Victoria can create safe and accessible bike routes for all residents. The Summit will provide opportunity for the community to share their ideas on the proposed cycling corridors and ask questions of the design team.

The network will include up to eight all ages and abilities bicycle corridors throughout the city for construction over the next three years. The “All Ages and Abilities” bicycle network is designed to be suitable, safe and comfortable for most people riding bikes regardless of their ability and experience, through the use of high quality, separated bicycle facilities. In 2015, the City of Victoria committed to becoming a national leader in cycling infrastructure by building complete streets and by completing a multi-modal and active transportation network by 2018. \$7.75 million was allocated by Council earlier this year.

“Our goal is to make Victoria one of the best cities in the world for people riding bicycles,” said Gil Penalosa. “This project isn’t just for current cyclists -- it is for everyone in the city. We want to talk to people from across Victoria representing different backgrounds and neighbourhoods. Our team is committed to contributing to a vibrant and healthy Victoria where people of all ages and abilities can bike safely as part of everyday life.”

The #BIKETORIA Summit is part of a series of free events happening in Victoria on November 1 and 2.

Additional events include:

Cook Street Pop-up Bike Lane and #BIKETORIA Outdoor Engagement Lab:

November 1 at Cook Street and Dallas Road, 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Bring your bike and try the pop-up bike lane!

#BIKETORIA Summit

November 1, at the Victoria Conference Centre (720 Douglas St)

2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Library Engagement Lab:

November 2, at the Central Library (735 Broughton St)

Noon to 3 p.m.

On-Street Engagement Lab:

November 2, at Wharf and Humboldt streets.

4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

For those that are not able to attend any of these events, an on-line survey will be available. To participate and learn more about Victoria's cycling network please visit www.victoria.ca/cycling

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For More Information:

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