



4.0 >> NETWORK
PRINCIPLES

4.1 VISION

This project is centred around the City's bold commitment to become, by 2018, a national leader for cycling infrastructure and complete streets planning, with a completed All-Ages and Abilities cycling network connecting all neighbourhoods and village centres.

The realization of this commitment will significantly change the face of the City of Victoria for current and future generations – how people choose to move around, where they choose to live, as well as the overall culture and economy of the city. This is exciting and daunting, as few cities in the world have undertaken such a transformation in cycling infrastructure in such a short timeframe. That being said, the cities that have accelerated the construction of a network of high quality bicycle facilities have been rewarded with substantial mode share increases. Seville, Bogota, and most recently Calgary's newly opened downtown network of protected bicycle lanes, have seen significant increases in the number of people who choose to make travel by bicycle over other transportation options.



4.2 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Several guiding principles have been developed for this study in order to assess and recommend enhancements to the 2014 bicycle network and identify and design the priority corridors. These guiding principles are a crucial component of this project, but will also be considered in all future bicycle network planning and decisions by the City. These principles will be considered throughout the process from network planning to the design and implementation of the facilities. As well, the principles are an important measure of the project's success.

The guiding principles are made up of two types of principles:

1. Network Planning
2. Prioritization

Based on the Bicycle Network update public engagement, and current national and international best practices in bicycle network and facility design, three network planning guiding principles have been established:

#COMFORTABLE

A network that is safe and comfortable for people of All Ages and Abilities

#COMPLETE

A minimum grid network that ensures all residents have access to AAA facilities within a short cycling distance.

#CONVENIENT

A convenient network that connects all major destinations in the City.

#COMFORTABLE

A network that is safe and comfortable for people of All Ages and Abilities. This includes a network that provides access to a number of important destinations within the city such as parks and schools. This network is also made up of facilities that are comfortable. They will be either physically separated from motor vehicles on busy streets, or they will be shared spaces on quiet streets that have been designed to slow vehicle speeds and reduce motor volumes while enhancing the neighbourhoods they travel through.

The All Ages and Abilities network will be made up of a combination of protected bicycle lanes, neighbourhood greenways and off-street pathways.

The public engagement process for the Bicycle Network update found that a network that is accommodating to all ages and abilities through strategic route location and safe infrastructure is very important to Victoria residents.

#COMPLETE

A minimum grid network that ensures all residents have access to a All Ages and Abilities facility within a short cycling distance. This minimum grid would be connected by supporting routes and traffic calmed neighbourhoods. This type of network would allow for every resident of Victoria to be able to access a safe and comfortable route within a short distance of their home and destinations.

One of the outcomes of the Bicycle Network update public engagement was an emphasis on an integrated network.

#CONVENIENT

A convenient network that connects all major destinations in the City. Major destinations include:

- > Urban core, town centres and urban villages
- > Retail businesses
- > Community amenities including schools, parks, health centres and institutions
- > Major employment areas, and,
- > Major tourism destinations.

As well, each neighbourhood in the city should have convenient access to All Ages and Abilities cycling facilities.

The public engagement process for the Bicycle Network update found that the public values good connections to key destinations, neighbourhoods and surrounding municipalities.



There are two prioritization principles that inform the identification of the 2018 priority network. These prioritization principles are:

#DEMAND

Corridors that provide the greatest potential for increased ridership, current and budding economic development opportunities, and additional benefits for residents and visitors to the City will be prioritized as this provides the greatest return on investment for the City.

#DOABLE

A key component of this project is to identify corridors that can be built by 2018. In order to achieve this ambitious schedule, priority corridors have been identified based on the feasibility of building the facilities. This includes consideration of the current curb-to-curb width of road, current and future transit, known future development, planned road reconstruction, and other issues.

