



Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC

Representing seniors in British Columbia since 1950

www.coscobc.org

November 10, 2025

By email

The Hon. Mike Farnworth, Minister of Transportation and Transit;
MLA Susie Chant, Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors' Services and Long-Term Care;
MLA Dana Lajeunesse, Parliamentary Secretary for Accessibility
Provincial Legislature
Victoria BC

Dear Mike Farnworth, Susie Chant and Dana Lajeunesse

Re: Bike lanes for electric wheelchairs and 3&4 wheel mobility scooters

The Council of Senior Citizens' Organization (COSCO) is a not-for-profit, non-partisan umbrella organization that represents 65 affiliated member groups including 85,000 older adults and retirees located in all regions of British Columbia. We advocate for policies that allow seniors to remain active, independent, and fully engaged in the life of our province.

BC's Motor Vehicle Act presently inhibits the ability of seniors to be active, independent, and engaged by creating a legal grey area regarding the use of wheelchairs and 3 & 4 wheel mobility scooters on bike and roll lanes and routes.¹
We respectfully ask that you make the needed changes to allow wheelchairs and 3 & 4 wheel mobility scooters on bike and roll routes province-wide without delay.

Electric drive technology has advanced in recent years, and many seniors in BC already use 3 & 4 wheel mobility scooters that can travel faster than is safe on sidewalks. Top speeds of 14 to 22 km/hr are now common for mobility scooters and clip-on devices for electric wheelchairs.

Some seniors already use mobility scooters on the networks of bike and roll routes that municipalities have created with provincial funding. However, travel training programs for seniors need legislative certainty to be able to teach older adults how to safely use this affordable, convenient, and sustainable form of transportation. Municipalities also seem reluctant to consult mobility scooter and wheelchair users about bike and roll route design and maintenance given this lack of legislative certainty.

¹ <https://ecoplanning.ca/want-better-bike-lanes/>

Wheelchairs and 3 & 4 wheel mobility scooters have been used on bike and roll routes legally and safely for decades in other jurisdictions, including the U.S. State of Oregon. Quebec's regulations allowing wheelchairs and mobility scooters on bike and roll routes and low-speed streets are already in place and can provide a potential model for BC to follow.

The province has had ample time to consider and research this issue. The BC Cycling Coalition first requested this change in 2013, and has recently ranked this as one of their top legislative priorities.² The City of Victoria started requesting this change in 2017, and the Capital Regional District followed in 2024.³ Many groups see the climate benefits of allowing a larger proportion of the population to access BC's bike and roll routes, and requested this change in an open letter regarding the 2025 *Independent Review of CleanBC*.⁴

There is no reason for delaying this very low-cost change which would have very significant benefits.

When will you take this simple step to allow more BC seniors to remain active, independent, and fully engaged in the life of our province?

We look forward to your early reply.

Sincerely

Leslie Gaudette

President, Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC

On behalf of:

COSCO BC Transportation Committee Chair Tim Larsen, and Member Eric Doherty

cc. MLA Trevor Halford, Transportation Critic
MLA Brennan Day, Seniors and Rural Health Critic
MLA Jody Toor, Caucus Chair, Conservative Party of BC
MLA Jeremy Valeriote, Green Party of BC

² [https://wiki.bikehub.ca/images/8/8f/25_Action_MVA - Recommendations%2C Round 2.pdf](https://wiki.bikehub.ca/images/8/8f/25_Action_MVA_-_Recommendations%2C_Round_2.pdf)

³ <https://www.gvat.ca/blog/win-victoria-votes-wheelchairs>

⁴ <https://bcclimateemergency.ca/transportation-working-group>