



Writing a letter to your MLA (provincial) or Councillor (municipal)

Note: It is very important to adapt this template so that it addresses your own personal connection with the three changes to the Traffic Safety Act that ACC is asking the provincial government to address. The letter or email that you send must contain your name and address so that the recipient can identify you. Anonymous correspondence is not seen as genuine correspondence and overlooked.

Municipal: Municipal councils can ask the provincial government to make the changes to the Traffic Act as suggested by ACC. They can also ask their umbrella organizations such as Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) and the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) to pass a motion or motions in support of the changes. Municipalities can also pass their own bylaws that mirror what ACC is asking the provincial government to do as Calgary is doing now.

Research: Before you sent a letter to your Provincial MLA or City Councillor, spend a bit of time researching information about them. Official biographies are posted on the www.assembly.ab.ca site for MLAs and usually on each municipality website for councillors and mayors. You might also want to find out if they are cyclists or if they have any special interests. For example, are they members of a traffic committee or planning commission or have they been quoted in media about cycling safety? Use your knowledge of the person you are contacting to adapt your letter.

Below is a draft letter you may adapt for your use to start your outreach with your provincial MLA or city councilors/Mayor. Feel free to cc the albertacyclingcoalition@gmail.com if you like.

*****Draft Template to be adapted*****

Dear [MLA {Lasts Name} or Councillor/Mayor {Last Name}] - ***use formal language]

Thank you for representing us [in the Assembly/on Council] and for your dedication to making our community a great place to live. [share your own cycling experience as a commuter, recreationist or training] I appreciate the work that has already been done to promote cycling safety through infrastructure developments [elaborate... bike paths?, traffic calming?] but I believe it is now time to review the Alberta Traffic Safety Act to ensure that cyclists are more safe on the roads. The Act has not been reviewed for a number of years and the number of cyclists in Alberta has increased dramatically since then. This increase can be seen daily (even in winter) in our community and on the roads.

The Alberta Cycling Coalition was formed through the partnership with several of Alberta's cycling organizations and with the mandate to improve cycling safety in our province. As part of this mandate, the ACC has reviewed the TSA as it relates to cycling and through their combined experience and research of best practices have created a report which includes proposed revisions to improve safety for cyclists. [recommend attaching report or inserting link to it, found on the ACC website]

Their three key recommendations are:

- Overtaking and Passing - Quantify **safe passing distance** to one metre and 1.5 metres at speeds greater than 60km/h
- Allow **two abreast riding**, when not impeding flow of traffic
- Cyclists to ride **as far to the right as is safe** versus as is practicable

I seek your support to have the Minister of Transportation recommend these changes to the Traffic Safety Act to cabinet so that the above three recommendations are incorporated.

Or

I seek your support to have Council pass the appropriate bylaws so that in [name of municipality] the above recommendations would be allowed for cyclists.

I would be happy to meet with you to discuss the above and can be reached at [Phone Number] or [email].

Sincerely yours,

[Name]

[Contact Information]