



January 8, 2018

Honourable Shannon Phillips  
Minister of Environment and Parks  
208 Legislature Building  
10800 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Phillips:

Each year at our annual Convention, AUMA members discuss and vote on proposed resolutions related to matters that impact municipalities, but require action by other orders of government. Enclosed for your response is the 2017 resolution that pertains to your ministry.

- AUMA Resolution 2017.B12 - Regional Trail Linkages between Urban Municipalities.

We look forward to your response to this resolution.

If you wish to review the resolutions pertaining to other ministries, they can be found on our website at: <https://auma.ca/advocacy-services/resolutions/resolutions-library>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Morishita', is written over a white background.

Barry Morishita  
AUMA President

Enclosure

**WHEREAS** there are opportunities for regional trail development which fall outside trail routes designated as Trans Canada Trail;

**WHEREAS** there is a need to connect trail systems already built in neighboring communities, thereby offering safe, economical alternative means of travel;

**WHEREAS** alternative modes of transportation such as walking and biking offer health benefits as well as benefit the environment; and

**WHEREAS** the growing number of bikers and walkers on highways and roadways designed strictly for vehicles increases the likelihood of catastrophic conflict with automobile traffic.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the Albertan Urban Municipalities urge the Government of Alberta to provide support and funding to complete non-motorized trail linkages between Urban Municipalities.

**BACKGROUND:**

“Active Transportation” is any human powered transportation and people who use active transportation are most likely to achieve daily physical activity goals. The 2017 Alberta Survey on Physical Activity found that 43% of Albertans are not getting enough physical activity and active transportation provides numerous benefits including:

1. Reduction in the risk of developing chronic health problems including heart disease, cancers, diabetes and mental health issues.
2. Providing economic benefits through reduced personal costs, reduced infrastructure needs, and reduced healthcare spending and boosts to the local economy.
3. Benefits to the Environment through reduced ecological footprint and lower energy consumption.
4. Increased safety by reducing pedestrian and cyclists conflicts with motor vehicles.

Encouraging “Active Transportation” starts by providing safe active transportation infrastructure such as exclusive lanes and interconnected paths. Non-motorized trail linkages between urban municipalities will provide many long term benefits to the citizens and the communities in which they live in.