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## **Time to get rolling on City's Cycling Plan, says Councillor Alex Cullen**

- **Tables motion for Oct. 7 Transportation Committee to provide dedicated City staff to begin implementing the City's \$26 million Cycling Plan**

Bay Ward Councillor Alex Cullen, a cyclist and author of last year's motion to accelerate the City's \$26 million Cycling Plan over 5 years, will be tabling a motion at the October 7, 2009 meeting of Transportation Committee to direct City staff to prepare a budget submission outlining the staff resources needed to begin implementing the City's Cycling Plan. Said Councillor Cullen: "It is time to get rolling on the City's Cycling Plan – we can't wait until 2012 for the plan to start. We need dedicated staff to begin preparing the projects that will add to our cycling network and make this City a cycling-friendly city."

Last June 2008 City Council adopted The Ottawa Cycling Plan – a \$26 million plan to expand Ottawa's cycling network, facilities and programs. Originally proposed to be implemented over 10 years, City Council accepted Councillor Cullen's motion to accelerate this plan to over 5 years. However, according to the City's plan cycling projects would start to be implemented in 2012. Unfortunately, during the last round of corporate re-organization, the City lost staff that were dedicated to implementing the City's cycling programs. Councillor Cullen believes that it will be necessary to re-establish dedicated staff personnel in order to begin implementing both the needed capital projects and the cycling programs as identified in the City's Cycling Plan. Councillor Cullen's motion would have City staff prepare a budget submission outlining what staff resources would be needed (and at what cost) in order to begin implementing The Ottawa Cycling Plan. If Transportation Committee adopts Councillor Cullen's motion, then City Council will consider this as part of the 2010 budget deliberations. Said Councillor Cullen: "Although all indications are that this will be a difficult budget year, we cannot postpone addressing our City's cycling needs, and we need the resources in order to get this plan rolling."