

From: Henk Ketelaars
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 10:39 AM
To: Mercier, Betty
Subject: please add to council agenda

Re bicycles on sidewalks

Is the bicycle a Vehicle, recreational tool, or toy.

This is issue that will help us determine if bicycle laws need a change.

Most often the bicycle is used for transportation purposes. That is the intend by most cyclist. Second purpose is to give that teenager a bit of freedom and often use the bike to do things that teens do.

Third, the bicycle is also a toy. Many children learn to ride a bicycle with training wheels and these vehicles look like toys.

The rest is clear as to where a bicycle belongs as outlined in the rules and laws of the highway traffic act.

There is really no need to change the law, as long as we recognize the difference between a bicycle and a toy.

To allow a child with a toy bicycle on the sidewalk is just common sense. To allow a teen on the sidewalk makes no sense at all since statistics point out that neighborhood streets are far safer then sidewalks when we follow the rules outlined by our ministry of transportation. Rules that everyone on our roads need to follow.

The cyclist that is the most intimidating to cause conflict are the kids in age between 10 and 16. These kids are the exercising their wings of freedom. They scoot from sidewalk to roads as if they are the only existence on the planet. Often lack lights on bell and the bicycles are often in ill repair.

Why are we considering the law of age 14? That makes no sense at all.

I strongly recommend that we put more effort in to education and enforcement. Dispelling the many myths about cycling will also help people understand.

Henk Ketelaars