

Winter Cycling Congress MEDIA FAQs

What makes Calgary a great city for winter cycling?

Over the last five years, Calgary has been transformed into a more bicycle-friendly city through the implementation of the Cycling Strategy, which includes:

- New infrastructure, downtown cycle tracks
- Downtown cycle tracks are cleared within 48 hours of snowfall
- Innovative ways to maintain the cycle tracks, such as beet brine
- A new bike share pilot program

What's unique about Winter Cycling in Calgary?

Maintaining a network of cycling infrastructure, hosting fun, family-friendly events and leveraging community partnerships has encouraged more people to try cycling.

Improving winter cycling conditions by providing safe and well-maintained routes allows more people to have the option of cycling and maintaining a healthy, active, lifestyle yearround

Why did the Winter Cycling Congress choose Calgary?

30 per cent of cyclists in Calgary commute year round using their bike. Our city is a great example of a winter location that has embraced cycling and made strides to improve infrastructure and accessibility for winter cycling.

What are the benefits for Calgary to hosting the congress?

- The Winter Cycling Congress will shine a light on Calgary as a winter cycling city and all of the work that has been done to make Calgary accessible to cyclists in the winter months.
- The Congress is a catalyst to having broader conversations about how to support winter policies for transportation, recreation and citizen wellbeing.
- As a municipality, we are excited to share our expert knowledge, highlighting our citizen-focused practices and showcasing our winter cycling network. Calgary is an example other cities can learn from.

Why should Calgarians be interested in the 2019 Winter Cycling Congress?

The Winter Cycling Congress is not just about cycling in colder weather. This is an opportunity for attendees to learn and connect over shared areas of personal and professional interest. It is also an opportunity for attendees to celebrate winter cities and year-round outdoor activities. Participants benefit from meeting and learning from fellow cycling enthusiasts, advocates and a number of content specialists and professionals who design, maintain and operate cycling infrastructure in northern cities around the world.



Additional Background

What is the Winter Cycling Congress?

The Winter Cycling Congress (WCC) is an annual gathering of experts from around the world to discuss opportunities for cycling in cold climate cities. For most cities in northern climates, winter weather is inevitable. The focus of the congress is to share best practices for building and maintaining year-round cycling infrastructure, discuss education and encouragement strategies and to host meaningful and inspiring events for all ages.

When and where will the Winter Cycling Congress events take place in Calgary?

The seventh annual Winter Cycling Congress will be held February 6-8, 2019.

There will be a variety of programming happening throughout Winter Cycling Congress 2019. The majority of events will take place at the new Calgary Central Library. Community-based events will be happening at various locations. Program and schedule details are available at <u>Calgary.ca/WCC2019</u>.

Who is the organizer of the WCC 2019 in Calgary?

The City of Calgary is pleased to host the 2019 Winter Cycling Congress; an event like this requires a collaborative effort with the Winter Cycling Federation, local community organizations, and sponsorships.

Who is paying for the WCC 2019?

Funding for WCC2019 is being secured through sponsorships from planning and engineering firms, other levels of governments and our various community partners. Additional costs incurred from hosting the event will be recovered through participant attendance fees.

Where to go for more information:

Winter Cycling Congress

For more information including a list of keynote speakers and the schedule of events for the 2019 Winter Cycling Congress, please visit <u>Calgary.ca/WCC2019</u>. Interested attendees can join the <u>Winter Cycling Congress 2019 mailing list</u>, or follow #WCC2019 on Twitter & Facebook to get updates on event details.

Winter Cycling Federation

For more information about the Winter Cycling Federation, please visit <u>www.wintercycling.org</u>.