

April 20th, 2011

The underlying principle driving the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Cut My Commute campaign is the need for Canada to adopt a new national transportation strategy.

The Halifax Chamber of Commerce supports the FCM's Cut My Commute campaign. We have fully endorsed the adoption of a national transportation strategy by the federal government, and we continue to do so. In May 2008, the Chamber recommended the federal government embark on the development of a national transportation strategy, and provided a series of recommendations for what that strategy might look like. We need a national strategy that links multi-modal transportation across the country – our current policy is over 20 years old.

The Federation's campaign effectively illustrates the cost of traffic jams both in dollars and hours lost by Canadians traveling to and from work – and this is a trend that will only continue as the price of gas continues to rise.

Reducing the cost of commuting to work is another area we have spoken out on in the past by communicating this concept to our members and employers, and listing several recommendations for alternative methods of transportation – such as active transportation, carpooling, and public transit, and programs that support these alternative choices such as guaranteed ride home, car share, and discounted transit passes.

These alternative methods of transportation have many benefits for business, but they also form part of our strategic priority of Sustainability – a win-win for local businesses and the environment in which we work and live. These submissions, and more, are available on the Policy Library section of our website at <http://halifaxchamber.com/policy/>.