

Campaign for Active Transportation

www.railstotrails.org/campaign



WHAT: The Campaign for Active Transportation, led by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC), aims to provide dozens of communities across the country with concentrated federal funds to promote trails, walking and biking for improved mobility in the upcoming transportation reauthorization.

BACKGROUND: The campaign aims to grow the Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program (NTPP; Sec. 1807 of SAFETEA-LU) into a mature program. The NTPP provided \$25 million over four years to each of four communities¹ to demonstrate that targeted investments can shift trips from driving to walking and bicycling.



CAMPAIGN PROGRESS: Dozens of communities (back of this page)² have created case statements, demonstrating the need and compelling benefits of integrated active transportation systems. Meanwhile, RTC has organized communities and made the case for a greater investment in walking and biking nationally. RTC has proposed that Congress create a \$2.5 billion “Active Transportation Investment Fund” for US DOT to issue competitive grants to realize the aims of the Campaign.

WHY: RTC’s report, “Active Transportation for America,” quantifies, for the first time, the nationwide economic benefits of active transportation. Increases in bicycling and walking could lead to an annual savings of **tens of billions of dollars** in fuel savings, CO2 reductions and health care costs—many times greater than the upfront investments. View the report at www.railstotrails.org/ATFA.

Mobility

- Nearly half of all trips in the U.S. are three miles or less, and a quarter are one mile or less.
- Years of transportation policy focused on the automobile have not curbed ever-increasing congestion.
- Building more roads alone does not significantly mitigate congestion.
- Active transportation investments lead to demonstrably increased mode share.
 - In Minneapolis, 28 percent of all trips involve walking or biking.

Climate

- Automobiles account for 20 percent of U.S. CO2 emissions.
- These emissions are rising due to more people, more cars per person, and more miles driven per car.
- Walking and biking currently yield far greater CO2 reductions than hybrid cars.

Public Health

- Obesity results in 300,000 premature deaths and an estimated \$117 billion in health costs annually.
- Experts recommend 30 minutes of moderate physical activity five days a week.
- Integrating exercise into daily trips is an easy, fun and inexpensive way to meet this recommendation.

Economic Development

- Trails often spur new residential and commercial development.
- Trails consistently increase property values along their corridors.
- Decreased driving promotes local businesses by diverting dollars from car-related expenses.

¹ Columbia, Mo., Sheboygan County, Wis., Minneapolis, Minn., and Marin County, Cal.

² Also available at www.railstotrails.org/case_statements