



March 2, 2009

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purposes only.

Governor
Office of Governor
State Capitol
City, State

Dear Governor:

On behalf of leading national organizations in the bicycling, pedestrian and trails communities, we respectfully and urgently ask you and the State Department of Transportation to use funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to ensure balanced transportation investments to build the safe and efficient transportation network we need to meet 21st century challenges.

Shovel-ready bicycle, pedestrian, Safe Routes to School, and complete streets projects are eligible for **all** ARRA bridge and highway funds. There is a mandatory set-aside for the Transportation Enhancement program, of which bicycling and walking projects are exemplary. Additionally, bicycle and pedestrian projects are eligible for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants and school modernization, and Community Development Block Grant funds.

Specifically, your state will receive \$X million of mandatory Transportation Enhancement funds. We urge you to take steps to utilize 100% of these funds and not allow any of the funds to be returned to Washington or redistributed to other states. Enhancements projects are too important to get lost in the rush to obligate other ARRA projects.

Because bicycle and pedestrian projects are generally smaller and more labor intensive than other transportation projects, they can be done quickly and locally – bringing jobs and economic benefits to “Main Street”. For example, these highly popular projects would add sidewalks, curb ramps, and bike lanes to roads without them; construct multi-use trails, and improve intersections with pedestrian medians and other safety features. See the attached summary of the benefits of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

America Bikes has compiled the attached illustrative list of more than \$X billion of ready-to-go bicycle, pedestrian and complete streets projects, including \$X million in projects from your state. (Available at http://www.americabikes.org/docs/America_Bikes_Ready_to_Go_Projects_Ir.pdf). Investing now in these projects will help ensure we create jobs while



moving our transportation system in the right direction – supporting economic recovery, as well as public health, safety, energy independence and a clean environment.

America Bikes and its' partners urge you to maximize the Transportation Enhancements set-aside and use as much other funding as possible to build bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Thank you for your consideration. For more information on this issue, please contact Caron Whitaker of America Bikes.

Sincerely,

America Bikes Coalition

Adventure Cycling Association

Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals

Bikes Belong Coalition

Complete the Streets Coalition

International Mountain Bicycle Association

League of America Bicyclists

National Center for Bicycling and walking

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Safe Routes to School National Partnership

Thunderhead Alliance of Biking and Walking

Cc: State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Attachments:

Benefits of Bicycle and Pedestrian infrastructure

Funding for Bicycle and Pedestrian infrastructure in ARRA

List of Shovel-Ready Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects, January 2009

Contact information for America Bikes and Partner resources