Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart,

We write to request inclusion of language in the fiscal year 2023 Transportation-Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act to ensure funding for the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program, as authorized in section 11529 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Public Law 117-58. This bill would provide direct grants to enable states and regional and local government bodies to plan and build safe and connected trail and active transportation networks for walking and bicycling.

Communities around the country are looking for assistance in addressing overwhelming demand for investment in active transportation networks that provide opportunities for safe walking and bicycling to daily destinations. These communities are also working to combat climate change by providing opportunities for their residents to shift to carbon-free transportation. To address these needs, we ask that the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) be funded at $500 million per year, as proposed by H.R.2991, the Connecting America’s Active Transportation System Act. This would also help address the transportation and economic needs of smaller towns seeking to connect to each other via longer, multi-purpose trails which provide not only options for transportation, but also serve as engines for economic development.

A brief survey in spring 2020 of local transportation planners and bicycle and pedestrian organizations identified over $7 billion in unmet need to fill gaps in active transportation systems. Transportation Alternatives grants deliver many valuable facilities but tying together existing infrastructure into connected systems in a reasonable time period will require more concentrated investments than are available under any current program. Funding the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program is an effective way to leverage previous federal investment.

The program would allow our nation to meet key priorities including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reversing rising fatalities and serious injuries among pedestrians and bicyclists, providing equitable mobility options, and rebuilding our local economies from the COVID-19 pandemic. A recent study found that a substantial investment in active transportation focused on mode shift to walking and biking could reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 54 million metric tons annually. The Non-motorized Pilot Project created by Congress proved that connectivity investments significantly increase walking and bicycling without any increase, and often an actual decrease, in pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities and crashes. Active transportation connectivity will also help ensure greater equity by providing affordable and accessible transportation options for the millions of U.S. households that do not own an automobile.

The Fiscal Year 2023 budget provides an opportunity for Congress to invest in the infrastructure projects that Americans most want, but that were not fully funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The
Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program is a critical tool to achieve our nation’s transportation goals, providing a uniquely high return on investment.

To provide $500 million in funding for this critical program, we request that the following language be included in the fiscal year 2023 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill:

Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program

For necessary expenses to carry out an active transportation infrastructure investment program under section 11529 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. 117-58, $500,000,000, to remain available until expended.

Sincerely,

Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
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Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

Darren Soto
Member of Congress

Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress