May 13, 2022

The Honorable Brian Schatz  
The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chairman  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
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U.S. Senate  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
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Dear Chairman Schatz and Ranking Member Collins,

We write to request the inclusion of funding for the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program, section 11529 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, in the Fiscal Year 2023 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill.

Although the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act authorized this program, the bill did not provide funding, relying instead upon the appropriations process. We therefore ask that it receive robust funding in fiscal 2023.

This funding would help meet the overwhelming demand for investment in active transportation networks that provide opportunities for safe walking and bicycling to daily destinations and enable communities to combat climate change by shifting to carbon-free transportation options. It would also address the transportation and economic needs of smaller towns seeking to connect to each other via longer, multi-purpose trails which provide not only transportation options, but also serve as economic development engines. 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. These networks require major concentrated investment to tie together existing elements of prospective systems often funded at the smaller project-by-project level by the 30-year-old Transportation Alternatives program. Funding the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program is an effective way to leverage previous federal investment.

The program would also allow our nation to meet key priorities including reversing rising fatalities and serious injuries among pedestrians and bicyclists, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, 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 in some instances 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 appropriations process 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.

We request that the appropriations bill provide robust funding for this critical program.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Dan Sullivan
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Tim Kaine
United States Senator
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

Alex Padilla
United States Senator

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Tina Smith
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Jon Tester
United States Senator

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

Raphael Warnock
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator