

Dec 15, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20511

Ms. Shalanda Delores Young  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Secretary Buttigieg and Director Young:

We, the undersigned organizations, write to ask you to address the unfulfilled promise of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) by requesting full funding for the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) in the president's Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 budget request. We appreciate your work implementing IIJA over the past two years, and particularly your focus on addressing climate emissions, promoting equitable investment for underserved communities, and ensuring the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists and people with disabilities.

Places around the country have developed plans to construct active transportation networks that connect people to routine destinations, as well as critical spine trails that connect between communities. Accelerating gap filling for hundreds of trail and active transportation networks under development across America is necessary to fulfill the IIJA's vision of a safe, sustainable, and equitable transportation system and a fully funded ATIIP is critical to making that happen.

We appreciate your inclusion of ATIIP in the president's FY 2024 budget at \$60 million and we call on you to include funding for ATIIP at the authorized level of \$200 million in the president's FY 2025 budget for DOT. This funding is necessary to achieve the full promise of the IIJA by empowering communities to plan and construct safe routes to everyday destinations for millions of Americans who do not have the option to drive as well as those who choose to walk, bike and take transit to the benefit of us all. Making it safe and convenient for people to walk, bike and move within and between communities brings myriad benefits. It reduces climate emissions and traffic congestion by shifting trips to carbon-free transportation options. It addresses the transportation and economic needs of smaller towns seeking to connect to each other. Plus, preventing the carnage of rising pedestrian and bicycle traffic fatalities requires safe and convenient routes to routine destinations.

There are billions of dollars in immediate unmet needs to fill gaps in active transportation systems across the country. These networks require dedicated, consistent and concentrated investments, which are not currently available under other existing federal funding programs.

Through recent discretionary grant program awards, USDOT has demonstrated a keen understanding of the importance of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure to the Bipartisan infrastructure Law's goals of climate, safety and equity. Even with a well-balanced portfolio of 2022 RAISE awards, fewer than a quarter of active transportation project applicants received funding due to the highly competitive multi-modal scope of the program. This points to the incredible unmet demand for concentrated active transportation funding, needs which can best be met consistently and reliably into the future with assurance that some large-scale grants will be reserved for active transportation, a function that ATIIP uniquely addresses.

Investing in connecting active transportation infrastructure within and between communities would help USDOT reach its goals by reversing rising fatalities and injuries among pedestrians and bicyclists, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, providing equitable and accessible mobility options, and supporting local economic development. A recent study by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy 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. Additionally, the Non-Motorized Pilot Project created by Congress proved that connectivity investments significantly shift car trips to walking and bicycling, while decreasing pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities and crashes. Active transportation connectivity will also help ensure greater equity by providing affordable and accessible mobility options for the millions of households that do not own an automobile and greater access for people with disabilities, as well as improved public health.

The FY 2025 appropriations process provides a key opportunity for USDOT to establish ATIIP at its intended and authorized scale. ATIIP is a critical tool to achieve our nation's transportation goals, providing a uniquely high return on investment. Please include funding at the authorized level of \$200 million in the President's FY 2025 USDOT budget.

Sincerely,



