



Active Transportation Agenda

For The Trump Administration

Developed by the Partnership for Active Transportation
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Partnership for
Active Transportation



Partnership for **Active Transportation**

The Partnership for Active Transportation is a unique collaboration of organizations working at the intersection of transportation, public health and community vitality to promote greater investment in creating safe trail, walking and bicycling networks for all, and facilitating greater physical activity through active transportation. The Coalition's purpose is to build a diverse and influential movement to create healthy places for healthy people by supporting active transportation policies and practices.

Learn more at Partnership4AT.org.

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Pg. 5, Clockwise from left: Chicago, IL; Seattle, WA; Austin, TX | Green Lane Project/PeopleForBikes

Pgs. 6 & 7: Better Bikeshare Partnership

Pg. 8, Clockwise from left: Shelby Farms Greenline, TN | Phillip Parker; Swamp Rabbit Trail, SC | Ian Curcio;
Peavine Trail, AZ | Cindy Barks; Better Bikeshare Partnership

BACKGROUND

Balanced transportation systems are fundamental to healthy communities. A strong economy and high quality of life depend on safe and easy access for all residents to jobs, schools, transit, shops, services, places of worship, parks and playgrounds, and friends and family. Public health is improved by providing a built environment that facilitates routine physical activity. Investing in networks of infrastructure that enable walking and bicycling—or active transportation—is critical to providing transportation systems that meet everyone’s needs, regardless of whether they drive, and to increase mobility, improve access for people with disabilities, spur economic development and promote healthy practices.

The Partnership for Active Transportation is a unique collaboration of organizations working across the fields of transportation, public health, economic development, community leadership, equity and livability. To build healthy places for healthy people, the Partnership calls for the creation of safe and practical routes for people to walk or roll to get where they need to go.

We ask the next president to build on several positive developments taking root across America. The first is the rapid rise in rates of walking and biking, and the commensurate strong demand for safe, convenient and pleasant places to walk and bike. The federal government needs to invest much more in connecting networks of trails, sidewalks, cycle tracks and other facilities that meet today’s needs. A second development is the admirable focus at the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) under Secretary Foxx on creating ladders of opportunity. Equity must be a core principle when planning transportation systems, considering who shares in opportunities and ensuring that communities have a real voice in defining transportation priorities. A third critical development is an urgent focus on ending the carnage on America’s roads, with special attention to stemming rapidly rising pedestrian and bicycle fatalities. A bold and comprehensive federal strategy is needed, including an ongoing commitment to manage the impacts of automated vehicles.

Rapid growth in active transportation has created challenges that require new approaches and engaged and focused leadership. Consequently, we recommend that the next president begin their administration by picking visionary leaders and creating administrative structures that will ensure active transportation is well managed, including creating an Active Transportation Administration at USDOT.

To prioritize active transportation is to meet the needs and desires of Americans, and to hasten the advent of a better America.



Provide safe routes to everywhere for everyone by building trail and active transportation networks in communities of all sizes and types across America.

Effective policies will:

- Connect people to important destinations—such as jobs, schools, transit, health care and parks—and opportunities for healthy physical activity.
- Fuel economic development, attract tourists, reduce health-care costs and aim to eliminate traffic deaths, particularly among pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Concentrate on meeting the needs of people who do not drive, such as many low-income individuals, people living with disabilities, seniors and children.



Greater Detroit Area

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Increase investment in active transportation.

Balanced transportation systems are fundamental to healthy communities. The federal government has severely underinvested in active transportation, resulting in limited options to safely and conveniently access destinations via foot, bike or wheelchair. The Transportation Alternatives Program, the nation's top source of funding for active transportation, should constitute at least 3 percent of all federal surface transportation funding. Further, competitive multi-modal programs that have supported balanced, cost-effective transportation options should be prioritized. In particular, the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program should be permanently authorized in the surface transportation program and funded by the Highway Trust Fund, with its budget doubled to \$1 billion to accommodate the volume of worthy applicants.

Focus on active transportation networks.

All transportation modes work best when knitted together into complete systems. Filling strategic gaps in existing walking and bicycling networks is the best way to minimize cost and maximize impact. We need to concentrate a portion of active transportation resources on timely completion of regional active transportation systems and use complementary policy tools, such as Complete Streets, to ensure efficient use of resources.

The Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) reforms in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act should be implemented to help serve this need, and the administration should prioritize creation of a grant program to fund active transportation networks whenever transportation infrastructure is debated in Congress. Further, regional systems should eventually be knitted together into a national network, including access to public lands.



Improve transportation planning.

Better planning is where a more balanced system begins. The planning process should engage all potentially affected communities and genuinely reflect community priorities. Special attention should be focused on groups such as communities of color and low-income neighborhoods that have disproportionately borne the negative impacts of past transportation decisions. The transportation system also should accommodate people of all ages and abilities, considering not only street design, but also opportunities to achieve separation of walking and biking from auto traffic, including multi-use trails. Public health, land use, safety, connectivity and access for non-drivers are among key considerations that should be elevated in transportation planning. Anticipating transformative trends, such as the potential for sharing automated vehicles to free up valuable street space, should be standard practice among planners.

Prioritize safety.

With more than 35,000 traffic deaths in 2015, and pedestrian and bicycle fatalities rising most steeply, it is critical that America invest in strategies to end this tragic and unnecessary loss of life. Providing safe active transportation routes via streets, sidewalks and trails is fundamental to this goal.

Vision Zero is rapidly gaining traction in cities committed to identifying and eliminating the causes of deaths and serious injuries on their roadways. The next president should embrace this principle and charge the secretary of transportation, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) with developing and implementing a comprehensive federal Vision Zero strategy that incentivizes prioritizing safety at all levels.

Part of the strategy should be a plan to ensure that fatalities and serious injuries to all road users, particularly pedestrians and bicyclists, will be systematically reduced and eliminated as autonomous vehicle technologies are deployed. This should encompass both vehicle design and corresponding changes in community infrastructure. Initial guidance regarding automated vehicles issued by NHTSA in September 2016 commits the government to a dynamic ongoing process of managing the public safety impact of these vehicles. The next administration must implement this promise with robust public engagement, appropriate regulation and innovative nimble approaches to keep pace with rapidly changing technologies.





Make active transportation a priority across the executive branch.

Create an Active Transportation Administration at USDOT.

This administration will ensure focused, efficient and effective management of all matters relating to these modes of travel. These good government purposes, as declared by Congress (see 5 USC 901), justify reorganization under 5 USC 903. In addition to providing focused implementation of key principles—the critical importance of connected networks, social equity and safety—the Active Transportation Administrator should set and achieve ambitious goals for increasing walking and biking.

Create a new position, Active Transportation Czar.

This position will coordinate decisions and activities relating to active transportation across federal agencies and the White House. The position, which will be housed in the White House, will maintain focus and priority on active transportation for the administration and make recommendations regarding changes in administrative structures and funding to best manage active transportation opportunities.

Establish an active transportation office or point person for all relevant federal agencies.

Relevant agencies will include the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Interior.

Restore and grow the offices in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that support active transportation.

- Build funding for the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity (DNPAO) Branch of the Chronic Disease Division. The DNPAO budget should increase from \$49.9 million to \$120 million using new funding to: create safe and healthy environments for physical activity, support cross-sector coalitions, and support national communication and leadership development around physical activity.
- Reinstate funding for the Built Environment and Health Initiative. The initiative budget should be immediately restored to \$2.25 million. This funding will support communities in using health information to make efficient, locally relevant decisions about transportation and land-use projects. Further, the new administration should develop a strategy to grow the initiative budget over four years.

Protect the Affordable Care Act's Prevention and Public Health Fund.

Propose annual budgets that would fund new investments in evidence-based prevention and public-health activities, including activities that help foster healthier communities by promoting active transportation and physical activity.

Collect data.

USDOT and CDC should collect data and conduct research on the mobility, health and economic benefits of active transportation. USDOT should collect project-level data for the Transportation Alternatives Program. USDOT should also set clear goals around reducing traffic deaths and serious injuries, and measure and share progress toward those goals. Pedestrian and bicycle deaths require special attention because they are substantial and growing parts of the overall problem, and low-income individuals and people of color have disproportionately suffered.

The following steps should be part of the agenda for the president's first 100 days in office:

Choose leaders who will build on USDOT's admirable work.

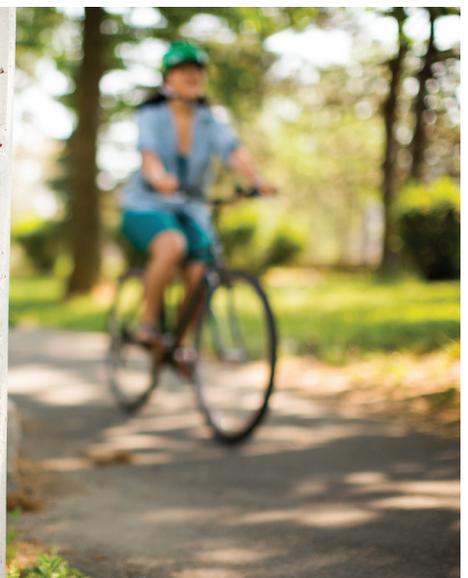
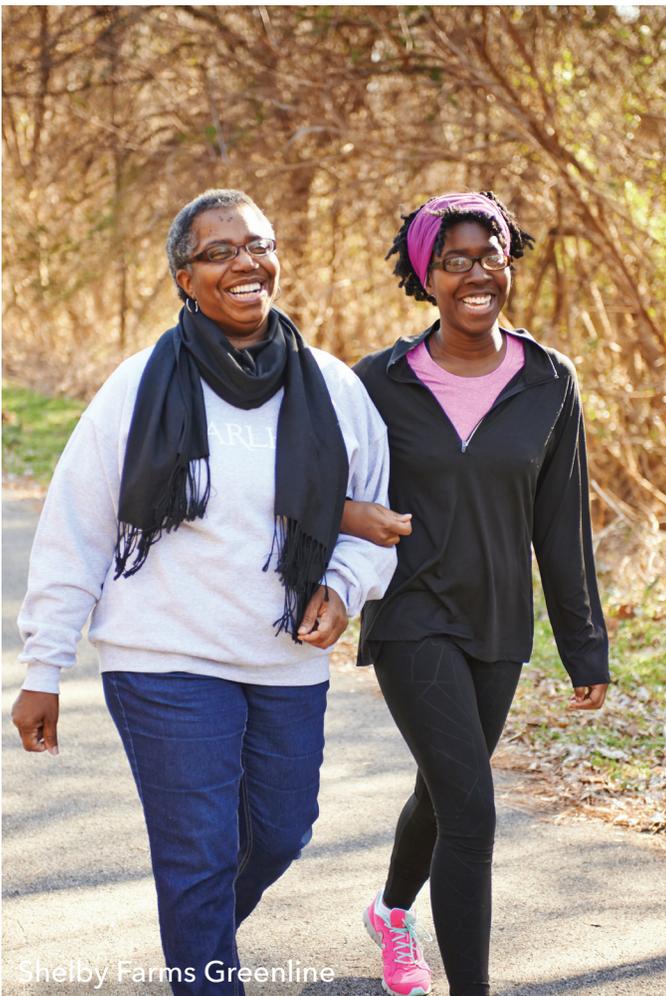
This leadership will begin to increase the priority given to active transportation and equity. Secretary Foxx has been a visionary and effective leader who has brought much-needed focus to critical goals, including reducing fatalities and injuries among pedestrians and bicyclists, and building ladders of opportunity connecting people to jobs, education and critical services. We ask that a leader with similar vision and qualities be chosen to head USDOT and that appointees to head other key posts—including FHWA administrator, NHTSA administrator and the Under Secretary of Policy—also share these values.

Create a new position of Active Transportation Administrator.

This position will oversee all active transportation functions at USDOT and report directly to the secretary of transportation. Note, this action is subject to 60-day Congressional review (5 USC 903).

Appoint a White House Active Transportation Czar.

The Czar will coordinate across the executive branch and ensure focused management of active transportation issues within the White House.



SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS



Partnership for Active Transportation Coalition Members



VISION4100 NETWORK



Other National Organizations



SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS



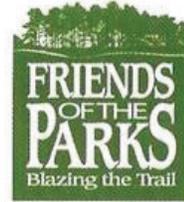
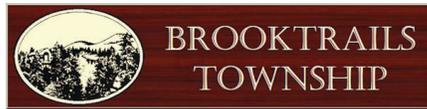
State and Regional Organizations



Local Organizations



WEST MICHIGAN
TRAILS & GREENWAYS
COALITION



Other Supporting Organizations

- Interior Trails Quarterly
- Live Well San Diego
- Main Street Steamboat
- Michigan Airtrail Line
- Terra Firma
- Yakima Bikes and Walks

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