



National Headquarters
2445 M Street, NW, Suite 650
Washington, DC 20037
202-331-9696

May 13, 2026

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public
Works
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
Committee on Transportation &
Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation &
Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Capito and Graves, and Ranking Members Whitehouse and Larsen:

We write in strong support of the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP), and request that you extend and strengthen this program in the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization. ATIIP was authorized in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) with bipartisan support. It is the only program dedicated to completing gaps in active transportation networks and investing in the larger, multi-segment projects necessary to deliver safe and connected active transportation systems.

We request that the program be provided annual highway trust fund contract authority of \$250 million to begin to address the overwhelming demand for this unique investment in connected walking and bicycling infrastructure.

Our millions of members and supporters understand that transportation systems must be connected to function and allow people to safely and conveniently reach their destinations. In fact, approximately half of all trips Americans take are within a 20-minute bicycle ride and more than 20 percent of all trips are within a 20-minute walk.ⁱ Unlike highways and railways, however, America's walking and bicycling infrastructure, including multiuse trails, are typically disconnected.

Across rural, suburban and urban communities, few Americans have access to complete routes to walk, bike or roll to the places they need to go. As a result, fatalities and injuries are too high, and many trips are not taken because they are dangerous. Through ATIIP, the federal government assists states and regions to connect America's active transportation networks, delivering safety and economic opportunity that will benefit all Americans.

It is unsafe and inconvenient to get around most communities without a car—yet nearly thirty percent of Americans do not drive. Every day, more than twenty Americans lose their life while walking. Across the board, people traveling outside of cars face disproportionate rates of injury and fatalities.ⁱⁱ By making it safer and easier to walk, bike and navigate communities of all sizes, ATIIIP enhances the entire transportation system by lowering costs of travel, reducing congestion, and supporting housing and economic development.

Connected and safe active transportation routes also provide critical economic development in communities nationwide and help create livable, healthy communities that have high quality of life. In one study, “every \$1 invested in trails, \$1.72 is generated annually from local business revenue, sales tax revenue and benefits related to health and transportation.”ⁱⁱⁱ Additionally, the country’s trail system already generates more than \$34 billion in economic activity annually^{iv} and can more than quadruple as trail systems are connected.

ATIIIP is the only program dedicated to investing at sufficient scale in projects that connect active transportation networks and spines. Authorized in IIJA for \$200 million subject to annual appropriations, ATIIIP is designed to leverage previous federal, state and local investments in active transportation, providing the large-scale grants necessary to close gaps between infrastructure segments to create seamless transportation routes.

This approach—providing larger grants for planning and construction to connect existing infrastructure within and between states and regions—will accelerate implementation of state, regional and local plans to create safe and convenient walking and biking routes to everyday destinations, which are being pursued in communities of every size and type in all 50 states. With one round of appropriated funding, ATIIIP was oversubscribed by applications at a ratio of 40 to 1, with 350 communities requesting \$1.8 billion. With only \$45 million, the program was able to invest in 14 projects in 13 states and Puerto Rico. These projects will plan and construct transformative infrastructure that is only possible through this unique program.

The next surface transportation law is a historic opportunity to meet the comprehensive and diverse transportation needs of Americans, so they can get where they’re going safely and conveniently. It is time to provide communities with the certainty and scale of investment necessary to plan and invest in the connectivity of active transportation systems, just as we do for roads and rails.

We request that you include an extension and expansion of ATIIIP in the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization and commit annual highway trust fund contract authority of \$250 million to begin to meet the overwhelming demand for this unique investment in connectivity.

Sincerely,

Rails to Trails Conservancy and the following 260 counter signed organizations

National

American Heart Association
American Hiking Society
American Society of Landscape Architects
American Trails
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals
Best Paved Bicycle Trails in the U.S.A.
Bikepacking Roots
City Parks Alliance
Equiticity
High Line Network
Just Strategy: National Campaign for Transit Justice
KABOOM!
Latino Outdoors
League of American Bicyclists
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
Main Street America
National Association of Realtors
National Recreation and Park Association
Out There Social Club
PeopleForBikes
Rails to Trails Conservancy
Safe Routes Partnership
Sierra Club
The Action Foundation
Trailsnet, LLC
Trust for Public Land
Vvolt Ebikes

Regional

Appalachian Mountain Club
East Coast Greenway Alliance
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Ohio River Way
Southern Environmental Law Center
Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association
Washington Area Bicyclist Association

Alabama

Mayor Randall L. Woodfin, City of Birmingham

Alaska

Alaska State Representative Zack Fields
Alaska Trails
Anchorage Park Foundation
Bike Anchorage
Fairbanks Cycle Club
Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance
Interior Alaska Trails Association
Interior Alaska Trails Newsletter
Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation
Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage
Northern Hospitality Group
Renewable Juneau
Running Club North
Salted Roots Basecamp
Sitka Trail Works
The Trek Bicycle Store of Anchorage

Arizona

Arizona Alliance for Livable Communities
Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals - Arizona Chapter
Bisbee Bikeways
Maricopa Trail and Park Foundation
Mayor Joseph C. Winfield, Oro Valley
Pinnacle Prevention
Sun Corridor Trail Alliance

Arkansas

City of Pea Ridge
City of Prairie Grove
Frontier MPO
Mayor Ernie L. Penn, Farmington
Southeast Arkansas Regional Planning Commission

California

107.one
BikeLA
California Bicycle Coalition
EcoRing - Ecotourism and Green Travel
Hayward Area Recreation and Park District
Marin County Bicycle Coalition

Sacramento Trailnet
Town of Truckee
Transbay Coalition

Colorado

Every Body Outside Consulting
Great Plains Trail Alliance
Mayor, Town of Ridgway
Snowy River Investments LLC.

Connecticut

Newtown Parks and Recreation

Delaware

Bike Delaware
Dover Kent MPO

Florida

Groundwork Jacksonville, Inc.
Naples Pathways Coalition
Tallahassee Mountain Bike Association

Georgia

Councilwoman Catherine Lautenbacher
Councilwoman Dr. Catherine Foster Rowell, City of South Fulton, GA - District 1
Go Georgia (formerly Georgia Bikes)

Hawaii

Hawai'i Bicycling League
Kauai Path, Inc.
Maui Bicycling League
The Friends of Kamalani & Lydgate Park

Idaho

DV Groberg CO.
Idaho Walk Bike Alliance

Illinois

Bike/Walk Kewanee
RAT Ride Illinois

Indiana

Friends of the Veterans Memorial Parkway Commission
Lagrange County Trails Inc.
Pumpkinvine Trails Coalition

Iowa

Dickinson County Trails Board
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Kansas

Kansas Trails Inc.
Rossville Community Foundation
Top City Trails Alliance (TCTA)

Kentucky

Cincinnati Off-Road Alliance, Incorporated

Louisiana

Mayor Michael Harris, DeRidder

Maine

Friends Of The Mountain Division Trail

Maryland

Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis & Anne Arundel County (BikeAAA)
Councilmember Zac Blanchard

Massachusetts

Friends of the Manhan Rail Trail
Holden Safe Cycling Group

Michigan

Detroit Greenways Coalition
Iosco Exploration Trail
Mayor Jim Gardner, City of Luna Pier
Supervisor Fred Lewis, Plainfield Township
Treasurer Michael McDonald, Addison Township
The Treeline Conservancy
Top of Michigan Mountain Bike Association
Transportation Riders United

Minnesota

City of La Crescent
Conservation Minnesota

Mississippi

City of Starkville
Gulf Coast Bicycle Club
Heritage Trails Partnership of the Mississippi Gulf Coast
The Meeting Place

Missouri

Kevin Guffey, American Realty and Development, LLC
Local Motion
LSRT Associates LLC
Missouri State Representative Willard Haley
Missourians for Responsible Transportation
Trailnet

Montana

Bike Walk Montana, Inc.
Headwaters Trail System
Mineral County MT Rails-to-Trails
Outdoor Community Partners

Nebraska

Columbus Area Recreational Trails

Nevada

Trail Access Project

New Hampshire

Bike-Walk Alliance of New Hampshire
Central New Hampshire Bicycle Coalition
Cross New Hampshire Adventure Trail
Friends of Seabrook Rail Trail, Diana Chapman, VP
Friends of the Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail Trail
Friends of the Salem Rail Trail
Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative
NH Rail Trails Coalition
Patrick's Pub & Eatery
Pelham Pathways, Inc.

Twin States Rail Trail Project

New Jersey

New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition
West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance

New Mexico

Albuquerque Bike Club
Enchanted Circle Trails Association

New York

Adirondack Rail Trail Association
Donald Doornbos LCSW
Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail, Inc.
Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway
Friends of the High Line/The High Line Network
Greene County Soil & Water Conservation District
Kingston Land Trust
Mode Choice Engineering, PLLC
Parks & Trails New York
Thomas Holmes, Chenango Heritage Rail Trail Lead, Chenango Greenway Conservancy

North Carolina

Black Diamond Designs Inc
Bladen County
Camp Grier/G5 Trail Collective
Carolina Climbers Coalition
Connect Buncombe
Conserving Carolina
Dan River Basin Association
Eno River Association
Friends of Panthertown
Friends of the Oklawaha Greenway
McDowell Trails Association
Piedmont Legacy Trails
Rutherford County Tourism Development Authority
Three Oaks Engineering
Town of Kure Beach

Ohio

BHJ Metropolitan Planning Commission
Bike Buckeye Lake
Cincinnati Off-Road Alliance
Five Rivers MetroParks
Friends of Madison County Parks & Trails
Heart of Ohio Trail
Kokosing Gap Trail
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Ohio Bicycle Federation
Ohio to Erie Trail
Ohio to Erie Trail Fund
OHM Advisors
Tri-State Trails

Oregon

Better Eugene-Springfield Transportation (BEST)
Lesley Orr, Rogue River Greenway Foundation Chair
National Coast Trail Association
Northwest Trail Alliance
Oregon Trails Coalition
Outdoor Education Adventures
The Intertwine Alliance

Pennsylvania

Brookville Trail Hub
Friends of the Corry Junction Greenway Trail
Friends of the Riverfront
SAMBA
Schuylkill River Development Corporation

Rhode Island

Bike Tiverton
Grow Smart Rhode Island
Peter Trafton, MD, Environment Council of RI
RI Bicycle Coalition

South Carolina

PAL: Play. Advocate. Live Well.
Palmetto Trail
Rock Hill - Fort Mill Area Transportation Study

South Carolina Trails Coalition
Upstate Forever

Tennessee

Memphis Hightailers Bicycle Club
Mid-South Trails Association

Texas

BikeDFW
BikeTexas
Creating Common Ground
George Cofer Conservation Consulting
Reconnect Austin
Red Line Parkway Initiative
Safe Streets Austin

Utah

Bike Utah
BikeWalk Provo
Cedar City Hikers, Bikers, and Pickleball Players
Centerville City Parks
Cottonwood Heights City Council District 4
Council Member Melanie Paxton, Elk Ridge
HEAL Utah
Iron Trailcraft Inc.
Mayor Dirk Burton, West Jordan
Mountainland Association of Governments
Sweet Streets
Utah Rail Passengers Association

Vermont

Mad River Path

Virginia

Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley
Friends of the Mount Vernon Trail
Friends of the Shenandoah Rail Trail
Grassroots Alexandria
Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition
Sports Backers
Virginia Bicycling Federation

Washington

350 Yakima Climate Action
Access Hound, LLC
Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation
BIKES Club of Snohomish County
BikeWhidbey
Cascade Bicycle Club
Cascade Volcanoes Chapter Great Old Broads for Wilderness
ForeverGreen Trails
Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust
Recreation Northwest Trails Coalition
ULORA
Urbanist Shoreline
Washington Bikes
William O. Douglas Trail Foundation
Yakima Bikes and Walks!

West Virginia

Panhandle Trail WV
West Virginia Rivers Coalition
WV TRAIL

Wisconsin

Bike Fitchburg, Inc.
Friends of the North Pikes Creek Wetlands
Neillsville Improvement Corporation
Shifting Gears Bike Shop
The Wisconsin Bike Fed

Wyoming

Platte River Trails Trust

ⁱ U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, 2017 National Household Travel Survey, March 2018, <https://nhts.ornl.gov>

ⁱⁱ Smart Growth America. (2024). *Dangerous by Design 2024*. National Complete Streets Coalition. <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/dangerous-by-design/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Institute for Transportation Research and Education. (2018). *Evaluating the economic impact of shared use paths in North Carolina* (Research Report No. FHWA/NC/2015-44). North Carolina Department of Transportation. <https://itre.ncsu.edu/focus/bike-ped/sup-economic-impacts/>

^{iv} Torsha Bhattacharya, Ph.D.; Kevin Mills, J.D.; and Tiffany Mulally, Ph.D., Active Transportation Transforms America: The Case for Increased Public Investment in Walking and Biking Connectivity (Washington, D.C.: Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, 2019). <https://www.railstotrails.org/atta>