

How the US House of Representatives Can Support Walking and Walkable Communities

It is in the national interest to make all of our communities safe and accessible for people who walk.

- Walking already accounts for 11% of trips in America, and 14% of traffic fatalities, yet only 1-2% of transportation expenses. Your constituents want more walkable communities and they want the federal government to help.
- In a national poll, Americans supported maintaining or increasing federal spending on active transportation by a four to one margin¹.
- Infrastructure that supports walking and active transportation produce enormous health, economic, environmental and equity benefits. Members of Congress can help protect and expand this infrastructure by supporting funding for walking, biking and trails.

Please oppose any effort to eliminate or reduce funding for walking, biking and trails in the transportation reauthorization legislation. Specifically:

- **We would appreciate if you please oppose any amendments or efforts to remove or reduce funding for the “STP Set-aside” program during floor consideration.**

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) (known as the STP Set-aside in the House bill) is the top source of federal funding to help communities create safe and accessible walking conditions through sidewalks, crosswalks and multi-use trails and to revitalize walkable downtowns.

Eliminating or reducing funding for Transportation Alternatives would undermine state and local transportation needs and dramatically impact the ability of local communities to build more walkable communities, which:

- Improve safety for people—critical given that people walking now account for 14% of all traffic deaths.
- Install inexpensive infrastructure that increases property values, promotes tourism, grows local economies and provide for healthy lifestyles.
- Provide affordable transportation options for everyone in the community regardless of age, income or disability, allowing people to have access to necessary goods and services
- Reduce the number of cars on the road and provides opportunitie for physical activity.

¹In a national poll conducted in 2014 by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and Lake Research Partners & Bellwether Research, 1000 likely 2016 voters were surveyed. A summary and the full report of the poll can be found here: <http://www.railstotrails.org/trailblog/2014/december/10/poll-reveals-broad-support-for-federal-investment-in-biking-and-walking/>