



peopleforbikes

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PeopleForBikes.org | 303.449.4893

June 11, 2020

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
Chairman
House Transportation and Infrastructure
2167 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio:

On behalf of PeopleForBikes, thank you for putting forth a vision for the future in the *Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America (INVEST in America) Act* that will move the nation forward and bring our transportation networks into the 21st century. Your leadership and commitment to enhancing mobility, equity and safety across the United States is critical to ensuring that every American can get where they need to go with ease. We stand ready to help make the policy reforms and funding levels included in the INVEST in America Act a reality and appreciate the opportunity to comment on the bike industry's priorities.

PeopleForBikes and our advocacy partners applaud the committee's inclusion of the new **Active Transportation Connectivity Grant Program** in the INVEST in America Act. One of the most important steps Congress can take to improve biking and walking experiences is expanding regional and local active transportation network connectivity through increased funding for this program. Our industry respectfully requests that the final reauthorization bill offer annual funding for the Active Transportation Connectivity Grant Program to \$500 million per year between FY2022 to FY2025, seen in the Connecting America's Active Transportation System Act (H.R. 5696).

As more Americans look to bicycling to meet their transportation needs, we expect increased ridership to continue in a post-COVID-19 world. Fully investing in the networks and systems that support bicycling will help move people efficiently, keep people active and healthy, and promote improvements in air quality and carbon emission reductions. We are especially appreciative of the following new proposals in the INVEST in America Act:

- **\$83 billion in infrastructure stimulus for FY2021** will help continue expansions of temporary road closures, "slow streets," and pop-up bike lanes that have gained popularity as state and local leaders seek to meet immediate increases in mobility needs.
- **A 60% increase in the Transportation Alternatives Program** and related policy reforms to enhance local control of funding for the program are critical to building out safe and effective mobility networks. TAP is the largest federal funding source for bike and pedestrian infrastructure, and this increase would come at a time when record levels of Americans are seeking close to home, dedicated places for biking to meet their transportation needs.
- **The Community Climate Innovation Grant Program** would help leverage biking and bike infrastructure in a transportation focused solution to climate change. Bikes emit zero carbon emissions, can reduce congestion and traffic, and support improved air quality, especially in urban areas. Increasing funding opportunities for infrastructure that support zero carbon emission transportation, like bicycling, is an important piece of a larger climate solution.
- **Commitments to safety through vulnerable road user safety assessments** will help focus investments in areas facing high rates of bicycle and pedestrian fatalities and injuries. This targeted funding is necessary to ensure that all road users can enjoy their share of the road and remove lack of safety as a barrier.



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We also recognize the significant increases in funding for continuing programs: the Federal Lands Transportation Program, the Recreational Trails Program and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program.

Thank you again for your commitment to moving America's transportation systems and infrastructure forward. Our industry and supporters appreciate the inclusion of bicycling as an important and essential mode of transportation. We look forward to helping advance this vision in the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Jenn Dice, Chief Operating Officer
PeopleForBikes

PeopleForBikes is the national trade association representing companies that manufacture and distribute bicycles, bicycle parts and bicycle accessories. Nationwide, PeopleForBikes represents 250 bicycle businesses and more than 7,000 retail locations. Our foundation branch is supported by 1.3 million individuals. The U.S. bicycle industry contributes \$88 billion annually to our economy and supports more than 780,000 jobs. Bicycling moves people efficiently and keeps people active and healthy.