

21st Century School Fund * AARP * Action for Healthy Kids * Adventure Cycling Association * Alliance for Biking & Walking * America Bikes * America Walks * American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance * American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network * American Council on Exercise * American Cultural Resources Association * American Diabetes Association * American Heart Association * American Public Health Association * American Society of Landscape Architects * Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals * Better World Club * Bikes Belong Coalition * Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund * ChangeLab Solutions (formerly Public Health Law & Policy) * Defeat Diabetes Foundation * Directors of Health Promotion and Education * Earth Day Network * HealthCorps * Hepatitis Foundation International * Institute for Transportation & Development Policy * International Mountain Bicycling Association * League of American Bicyclists * Local Government Commission * LOCUS: Responsible Real Estate Developers and Investors * NAACP * National Association for Sport and Physical Education * National Association of Chronic Disease Directors * National Association of City Transportation Officials * National Association of Counties * National Association of County and City Health Officials * National Association of Regional Councils * National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services * National Bicycle Dealers Association * National Center for Bicycling & Walking * National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity * National Complete Streets Coalition * National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers * National Education Association Health Information Network * National League of Cities * National PTA * National Recreation and Park Association * National Trust for Historic Preservation * National Wildlife Federation * NCLR (National Council of La Raza) * Outdoor Industry Association * Partnership for Prevention * PlayCore * PolicyLink * Preservation Action * Rails-to-Trails Conservancy * Reconnecting America * Safe Kids Worldwide * Safe Routes to School National Partnership * Safe States Alliance * Save the Children * Sierra Club * Smart Growth America * The U.S. Conference of Mayors * Transportation Equity Network/Gamaliel * Transportation for America * Trust for America's Health * U.S. Travel Association * Western States Tourism Policy Council * YMCA of the USA

May 30, 2012

Dear Members of the Conference Committee on Surface Transportation Reauthorization:

As you move forward conferring on the transportation bill, the 70 undersigned national organizations respectfully urge you to maintain the Cardin-Cochran agreement from MAP-21 in the conference report.

Our organizations care about a diverse range of issues—transportation, safety, accessibility, economic competitiveness, historic preservation, health and obesity. And we are united in asking you to ensure that local governments have flexibility and funding certainty to address these issues by making available to them a small portion of federal transportation dollars.

MAP-21 directs a percentage of funds under the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program for “Additional Activities.” This program includes Transportation Enhancements with expanded eligibility for environmental mitigation, Safe Routes to School, and some road and other uses. These programs have traditionally been invested in a variety of smaller-scale, local transportation projects such as building sidewalks, bikeways and other improvements that make downtowns economically competitive and safe for families and pedestrians of all ages.

The Cardin-Cochran agreement is a bipartisan compromise that gives local governments a voice in transportation planning through sub-allocation and grant competitions. It gives local governments—those closest to the needs of their constituents and communities—an opportunity to weigh in on how states spend their Additional Activities federal

transportation dollars. The compromise does not change the underlying Additional Activities program or the new eligibilities.

Americans want more biking and walking projects in their communities—rural, suburban, and urban—to provide healthy and safe transportation choices, improve air quality, create jobs and stimulate economic competitiveness in their downtowns. A national poll conducted in March 2012 by the Princeton Survey Research Associates showed that 83 percent of all Americans, including 88 percent of Democrats and 80 percent of Republicans, support maintaining or increasing federal investments in biking and walking.

Maintaining local access to this small portion of the transportation bill by retaining the Cardin-Cochran agreement is critical to ensuring that cities and counties of all sizes have a voice in addressing the needs of their constituents. We appreciate your consideration and urge your support for the Cardin-Cochran agreement.

Sincerely,

21st Century School Fund

AARP

Action for Healthy Kids

Adventure Cycling Association

Alliance for Biking & Walking

America Bikes

America Walks

American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Council on Exercise

American Cultural Resources Association

American Diabetes Association

American Heart Association

American Public Health Association

American Society of Landscape Architects

Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals

Better World Club

Bikes Belong Coalition

Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund

ChangeLab Solutions (formerly Public Health Law & Policy)

Defeat Diabetes Foundation

Directors of Health Promotion and Education

Earth Day Network

HealthCorps

Hepatitis Foundation International

Institute for Transportation & Development Policy

International Mountain Bicycling Association

League of American Bicyclists

Local Government Commission

LOCUS: Responsible Real Estate Developers and Investors
NAACP
National Association for Sport and Physical Education
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
National Association of City Transportation Officials
National Association of Counties
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Regional Councils
National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services
National Bicycle Dealers Association
National Center for Bicycling & Walking
National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity
National Complete Streets Coalition
National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers
National Education Association Health Information Network
National League of Cities
National PTA
National Recreation and Park Association
National Trust for Historic Preservation
National Wildlife Federation
NCLR (National Council of La Raza)
Outdoor Industry Association
Partnership for Prevention
PlayCore
PolicyLink
Preservation Action
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Reconnecting America
Safe Kids Worldwide
Safe Routes to School National Partnership
Safe States Alliance
Save the Children
Sierra Club
Smart Growth America
The U.S. Conference of Mayors
Transportation Equity Network/Gamaliel
Transportation for America
Trust for America's Health
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