



Lifting Up What Works®



February 1, 2012
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Dear Representative X:

The mark-up of the American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act of 2012 this Thursday comes at a critical time for federal surface transportation policy. We cannot afford to return to an outdated model of infrastructure that no longer strengthens our communities or empowers them to compete. **Please support the Petri/Johnson amendment** to rebuild Transportation Enhancements (TE) and Safe Routes to School (SRTS), whose far-reaching impacts far exceed the less than 2% of surface transportation funding they received under SAFETEA-LU.

Since 1992, TE projects have delivered tremendous value to local communities in economic development, safety, and quality of life improvements. We are especially concerned about changes to eligible TE activities, especially the *rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation facilities* (9.4% of all TE activity) and *preservation of abandoned railway corridors* (7.2%). The former has been key, for example, in restoring and operating the Erie Canal in New York State, which has triggered **\$38 million/year in heritage tourism and \$14 million in wages for hundreds of jobs** in the region, and accompanying sales and payroll tax revenue for state and federal coffers.

Similarly, *eligibility of preservation of abandoned railway corridors* has enabled state DOTs to save irreplaceable transportation corridors as transportation and recreational trails for future generations while preserving the possibility of restored rail service in the future. In 2008, for example, the Great Allegheny Passage trail in western Maryland was directly responsible for an estimated **\$40 million in revenue and \$7.5 million in wages**.

The Safe Routes to School program, meanwhile, tackles the safety of our children. Eliminating the SRTS program means the loss of \$180 million per fiscal year for children to walk and bike to school. This is critical to help communities ensure the safety of children on the trip to school. **One-quarter of children's traffic deaths happen when children are walking and bicycling**—emphasizing the critical need for safe infrastructure like sidewalks and crosswalks. This funding is in great demand by small towns, school districts and local governments.

Please support the Petri/Johnson amendment to the American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act. This amendment is consistent with the spirit of the bill in consolidating SRTS and TE into a single program. It provides dedicated funding for the program while giving states flexibility to fund this from a variety of federal transportation funds they receive. It advances reform by streamlining regulatory burdens and amending TE eligibility to remove little-used but controversial activities. This represents the kind of rational, bipartisan compromise that Americans want to see from Congress.



Adventure Cycling



American Heart Association®
Learn and Live



U.S. PIRG



public health law & policy





Attached, please find a pie chart of your state's TE spending; a national pie chart of TE spending; a list of all TE projects in your district; and a list of Safe Routes to School projects in your district.



Sincerely,



PRESERVATION
Louisville



National Association
of State Directors
of Pupil Transportation Services

preservation
PENNSYLVANIA



Alliance
of National
Heritage
Areas



COOPER'S FERRY
PARTNERSHIP
LIVE | WORK | INVEST | GARDEN



PedNet



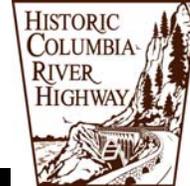
BikeTexas
Advancing Access, Safety, and Education



CALIFORNIA
BICYCLE
COALITION



ATLANTA
Preservation Center



WASHINGTON
AREA
BICYCLIST
ASSOCIATION



Mississippi
River Trail

National Organizations

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Adventure Cycling Association

Alliance for Biking & Walking

Alliance of National Heritage Areas

America Bikes

America Walks

American Cultural Resources Association

American Heart Association

American Hiking Society

American Planning Association

American Public Health Association

American Trails

Americans for the Arts

America's State Parks

Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals

City Parks Alliance

International Mountain Bicycling Association

League of American Bicyclists

National Association of Counties

National Association of Realtors

National Association of Regional Councils

National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services

National Complete Streets Coalition

National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers

National Parent Teacher Association

National Preservation Institute

National Recreation and Park Association

National Trust Community Investment Corporation

National Trust for Historic Preservation

Partnership for Prevention

PolicyLink

Preservation Action

Public Health Law & Policy

Ride America for Safe Routes

Safe Kids Worldwide

Safe Routes to School National Partnership

Society for Historical Archaeology

TrailsNet.com

Transportation for America

U.S. Public Interest Research Group

YMCA of the USA

State and Regional Organizations

Mississippi River Trail, Inc. (AR)

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AR)

Bike Walk Connecticut (CT)

California Bicycle Coalition (CA)

Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (CO)

Delaware Council on Greenways & Trails (DE)

Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation (FL)

Idaho Pedestrian and Bicycle Alliance (ID)

Iowa Bicycle Coalition (IA)

MassBike (MA)

Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition (MA)

Maryland Historical Trust (MD)

Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MI)

Missouri Tourism Director (MO)

Mississippi Main Street Association (MS)

State Historic Preservation Officer, Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MS)

Preservation New Jersey (NJ)

North Carolina Rail-Trails (NC)

North Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer (ND)

Heritage Ohio (OH)

Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OH)

Bike Texas (TX)

Preservation Trust of Vermont (VT)

State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (VT)

Virginia Bicycling Federation (VA)

Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VA)

West Virginia Cycling Foundation (WV)

West Virginia Wilderness Coalition (WV)

Local Organizations

Antelope Valley High Desert Cyclists (CA)

Marin County Bicycle Coalition (CA)

Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (CA)

San Diego County Bicycle Coalition (CA)

Sonoma County (CA)

Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway (CA)

Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (CO)

Washington Area Bicyclist Association (DC)

Green Mobility Network (FL)

Naples Pathways Coalition, Inc. (FL)

River of Grass Greenway (FL)

Atlanta Preservation Center (GA)

Idaho Falls Community Pathways (ID)

Charleston, IL Historic Preservation Commission (IL)

Landmarks Illinois (IL)

City of Fort Wayne (IN)

Preservation Louisville, Inc. (KY)

Waterfront Development Corporation/Belle of Louisville (KY)

Baton Rouge Advocates for Safe Streets (LA)

Friends of Lafitte Corridor (LA)

Preservation Resource Center (LA)

The Foundation For Historical Louisiana (LA)

Boston GreenRoutes (MA)

Friends of the Somerville Community Path (MA)

Friends of Herring Run Parks (MD)

Child Safety Solutions (ME)

Off the Beaten Path Trail Work and Training (ME)

Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living (MI)

City of Ann Arbor (MI)

Detroit RiverFront Conservancy (MI)

Friends Of The Border To Border Trail (MI)

Friends of the Clinton River Trail (MI)

Warren/Conner Development Coalition (MI)

Wheelhouse Detroit & Tour de Troit (MI)

Missouri Rail Trail Foundation and the Katy Trail Coalition (MO)

PedNet Coalition (MO)

Active Transportation Alternatives (MT)

Native Trails, Inc. (NC)

Cooper's Ferry Partnership (NJ)

Mount Sinai School of Medicine (NY)

Rochester Active Transportation Committee (NY)

Bike Cleveland (OH)

Fairfield Heritage Trail Association (OH)

Franklin County Safe Communities (OH)

Haydocy Automotive & Weston Vision (OH)

Neundorfer, Inc (OH)

Oxford, Ohio (OH)

The Ohio to Erie Trail Fund (OH)

Bicycle Transportation Alliance (OR)

Friends of the Historic Columbia River Highway (OR)

Travel Portland (OR)

Applied Trails Research (PA)

Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia (PA)

Council on Greenways & Trails (PA)

Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier (PA)

Preservation Pennsylvania (PA)

Presque Isle Cycling Club & Northwest Pennsylvania Trails Association (PA)

York County Rail Trail Authority (PA)

City of Dallas (TX)

S&S Trail Services, L.L.C. (TX)

Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (VA)

Bike Norfolk, Inc. (VA)

RideRichmond (VA)

Tidewater Bicycle Association (VA)

Friends of the Centennial Trail (WA)

Kettle River Rail Trail Council (WA)

Ripon College (WI)

Mountain State Wheelers Bicycle Club (WV)