



February 14, 2013

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, Dc 20590

Re: Safety Performance Measures Needed for Non-Motorized Transportation

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The bicycling and walking community has much to thank you for during your tenure over the past four years as Secretary of Transportation. In 2010, you announced a new policy on bicycle and pedestrian accommodation that encouraged government agencies to consider walking and bicycling as equals with other transportation modes. We have greatly appreciated your presence at the National Bicycling Summit each year, your trips around the country to participate in Safe Routes to School and Complete Streets events and your campaign to end distracted driving. Your leadership has helped advance bicycling and walking as a part of smart, multi-modal planning that provides safe and healthy transportation options for people of all ages and abilities throughout the United States.

We believe one critical action will help preserve your legacy on bicycling and walking for the future. Under MAP-21 section 1203(c)(4), the U.S. Department of Transportation is required to set performance measures on safety. We urge you to include in this performance measure a requirement that states have separate measures for motorized and non-motorized transportation, for both fatalities and serious injuries.

Over the years, few states have used their Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds for improving bicycle and pedestrian safety. In 2010, just six states spent any of their HSIP funds on bicycle and pedestrian projects.

We are seeing the impact of that neglect on the fatality data. In 2011, motor vehicle crash fatalities were at a 60-year low in real numbers, and a historic low in the fatality rate per vehicle miles traveled. Unfortunately, bicycle and pedestrian fatalities are on the rise—both in actual numbers and percentage of overall fatalities. In 2011, a total of 5,109 individuals were killed while walking or bicycling, an increase of 11.7 percent from 2010. As a share of overall fatalities, bicycling and walking fatalities increased a full percentage point, now making up 15.8 percent of all traffic fatalities.

We ask for your help in turning around these fatality numbers. Under MAP-21, most states have seen significant increases in their available HSIP funds, which will allow them to focus some funds on bicycle and pedestrian safety without any detriment to safety efforts for other road users. Given the history on how states have utilized their HSIP funds, we fear that this will not happen unless you ensure that there are separate and appropriate performance measures for pedestrian and bicycle modes.

Setting safety performance measures for non-motorized transportation will ensure that as states revise their strategic highway safety plans, that they examine the state's data on bicycle and pedestrian safety and, where appropriate given the data, determine steps suitable to their communities to reduce fatalities and serious injuries.

Thank you again for your leadership on bicycling and walking, and thank you for considering this important safety request. With your assistance, we can help ensure that individuals who choose to walk or bicycle can do so safely. This action will add to your legacy as Secretary of Transportation in leading efforts to help pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages.

Sincerely,

Randy Neufeld, President, America Bikes
Jim Sayer, Executive Director, Adventure Cycling Association
Jeff Miller, President/CEO, Alliance for Biking and Walking
Scott Bricker, Executive Director, America Walks
Kit Keller, Executive Director, Association of Pedestrian and Bicycling Professionals
Tim Blumenthal, President, Bikes Belong
Mike Van Able, President, International Mountain Bicycling Association
Andy Clarke, President, League of American Bicyclists
Mark Plotz, Program Director, National Center for Biking and Walking
Roger Millar, Director, National Complete Streets Coalition, Smart Growth America
Deb Hubsmith, Executive Director, Safe Routes to School National Partnership

