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The Honorable Patty Murray Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee U.S. Senate S-128, The Capitol Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Brian Schatz, Chair, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Senate Appropriations Committee 184 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 The Honorable Susan Collins Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee U.S. Senate S-128, The Capitol Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Senate Appropriations Committee 184 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

## CC: Senate Appropriations Committee

Dear Chairs Murray and Schatz and Ranking Members Collins and Hyde-Smith:

The undersigned organizations respectfully request your support for the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget at the \$200 million level as authorized in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

IIJA established policies and programs aimed at developing a transportation system that is safer, more sustainable and equitable, and provides broader access to economic opportunities. To realize these goals, a key piece of unfinished business for IIJA has been the failure to fully fund ATIIP. ATIIP is a unique and essential new program designed to leverage existing infrastructure to connect people to the places they need to go by foot and bicycle. The novel approach maximizes return on investment and ensures that the mobility and economic needs of urban, suburban, and rural areas are each addressed by investing in facilities connecting within and between communities.

Localities nationwide have ambitious plans to close gaps in active transportation infrastructure to make it safe and convenient to walk and bike to destinations, an economic imperative for some people, and a healthy and sustainable choice for all. Realizing these plans is dependent upon an expanded and reliable financial partnership among federal, state, local, and tribal levels of government. A <u>recent poll from Rails to Trails Conservancy</u> found strong support for improved infrastructure for walking and biking with a focus on dedicated rights-of-way for active travel. This sentiment is shared across the political spectrum.

The demand for dedicated funding to expand active transportation networks far exceeds current allocations under existing federal programs, as evidenced by the high volume of quality active transportation applications to discretionary programs that remain unfunded. A commitment to fully appropriate ATIIP at its \$200 million authorized level would signify a decisive step toward achieving IIJA's goals. This view is shared by many organizations and coalitions that have circulated letters requesting funding for this program, including Transportation for America, the Transportation Equity Caucus, and the National Campaign for Transit Justice.



As the FY 2025 appropriations process unfolds, we appeal to your leadership to provide additional funding to accommodate the 302(b) allocation process so that ATIIP can be funded at its intended \$200 million level. Such an investment would not only advance the national goals outlined in IIJA but also reflect a commitment to a future where active transportation is a safe, accessible, and equitable option for all Americans.

Sincerely,



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