



House bill slashes funding for bikes, pedestrians, and getting your kids safely to school!

Will Your Representative Defend Trails and Bike/Ped Programs?

Today House Transportation Committee Chairman John L. Mica (R-FL) and Committee Members released the ["American Energy & Infrastructure Jobs Act."](#)

The Recreational Trails Program would be authorized at \$85 million, but the Safe Routes to School program would be eliminated along with dedicated funding for Transportation Enhancements. Eligibility for preserving abandoned railway corridors, including trail conversion, is specifically eliminated. *See the [Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's analysis of the House transportation bill...](#)*

Representatives Tom Petri (R-WI) and Tim Johnson (R-IL) plan to offer an amendment to restore funding for these programs. They need support from their colleagues on the T & I Committee to get it passed. So -- their colleagues need to hear from you!

Time is of the essence! The markup of this bill will be held this Thursday:

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Markup of *"The American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act"*

Thursday, February 2, 2012; 9:00 a.m. EASTERN
2167 Rayburn House Office Building

Attend the live webcast of the markup at transportation.house.gov.

TAKE ACTION!

Keep checking the [American Trails' "Supporting Trails"](#) webpage often for the latest news regarding Reauthorization.

The bill singles out many programs that have helped fund bikeways, rail and canal trails, bridge walkways, safe routes to schools, and bike/ped coordinators.

The bill attacks a wide range of bike/ped programs:

- Ends all dedicated funding for Transportation Enhancements
- Eliminates eligibility for rail trails and rail corridor preservation
- Eliminates eligibility for historic projects, including canal corridors and railroad facilities
- Cuts out the Safe Routes to School programs and staff
- Allows states to build bridges without accommodating pedestrians and bicycles
- Stops funding for bicycle and pedestrian coordinators in state DOTs

We urge you to contact your Representative:

1. Please see if your member of Congress is on the [House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee](#).
2. If your Representative **IS** on the Committee, please call or email their office ASAP and ask them to vote in favor of an amendment to restore funding for these critical programs.
3. If your Representative **ISN'T** on the Committee, their support is still vital! Please remind them of local projects that have benefited their District. Ask them to encourage T & I Committee members to restore funding for these programs. Also, they will have a vote when the bill goes before the full House.
4. Contact your Representative by visiting this website: <https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>
5. Spread the word through your networks!

TALKING POINTS

There is strength in numbers and we need to present a unified voice for trails, to tell their story, to present their endless benefits, and to make the case for funding them:

- Funding spent on trails, bike/ped facilities, parks, and outdoor recreation is a sound investment in the country's economy.
- Bicycling and walking make up 12 percent of all trips, but only 1.5 percent of federal funding.
- One-quarter of children's traffic deaths happen when they are walking or bicycling and are struck by cars. Safe Routes to School funds help ensure funding for critical sidewalks, crosswalks, and safety infrastructure to protect children and prevent unnecessary deaths.
- The more bicycles on the road; the fewer cars needed -- resulting in less congestion, better air quality, and reduced road repair work needed.
- The health of our children, as well as our cities, will depend on expanding transportation choices and preserving trails, open space, parks, and places for recreation.

Read more about the benefits of trails and find talking points to help you make the case for trails and bike/ped facilities on the [American Trails website...](#)

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Time is of the essence! A vote could take place on Thursday. Please pass this message on through your networks!

Thank you, in advance, for your support and swift action!



Pam Gluck, Executive Director

[American Trails](#)