

Press Release
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For Immediate Release

Further Information

Andy Clarke
P.571 213 5422
Bikeleague.org

Caron Whitaker
P.202 215 3908
Americabikes.org



Investing in Transportation Infrastructure for All - A Statement from the America Bikes Coalition

Senator Coburn is demanding that Transportation Enhancements be stripped from the Extension of the Surface Transportation bill, and stating that he is willing to shut down transportation in order to do it. These demands are based on a misrepresentation of the facts about the Transportation Enhancement program, and a serious misunderstanding of the role bicycling and walking play in our nation's transportation system. We would like to respond to these claims here.

Transportation Enhancements is 1-2% of Highway Trust Fund dollars- Not 10%

Senator Coburn calls for the elimination of the Transportation Enhancements program; they say it is ten percent of the transportation funding program. It is not. **The Transportation Enhancements program is 1.5% percent of the overall transportation program**, of which roughly one half is usually spent on bicycling and walking infrastructure.

The Majority of Transportation Enhancements is spent on Transportation Infrastructure- Not Museums.

55 percent of TE funds (or less than 1% of transportation funds) go to building biking and walking infrastructure- such as sidewalks, crosswalks and bike lanes. Bicycling and walking trips make up 12% of all trips in the United States; bicyclists and pedestrians comprise 14% of all fatal crash victims on our nation's roads – and yet these two modes of transportation receive barely more than 1% of Federal transportation investment. Active transportation is growing in popularity and significance in communities throughout the nation-and this welcome trend is due in part to the investment of Federal transportation funds in bicycling and walking infrastructure.

This has everything to do with safety

14 percent of roadway fatalities are bike riders and pedestrians- two-thirds of which occur on Federal aid Highways. While roadway fatalities have been decreasing- the percentage of fatalities that are bicyclists and pedestrians has increased. Building biking and walking infrastructure saves lives.

The Projects create jobs- More jobs per million dollars than road projects

Ending this popular and successful program after 20 years would jeopardize investment in thousands of small-scale, labor-intensive projects that can be implemented quickly and efficiently. According to the Political Economy Research Institute (PERI), bicycle projects yield 11.4 jobs per million dollars spent, versus 7.8 jobs created per million spent on road only projects. These bicycle projects also generate economic activity for a very low up-front cost, offering tremendous returns on investment. In this economic climate, this is exactly the kind of investment our cities and our businesses need.

The America Bikes coalition urges Congress to pass a clean extension to the transportation bill, and support continued dedicated funding for bicycling and walking programs.

America Bikes is a coalition of leaders from the bicycle community advocating for positive outcomes for bicycling in the federal transportation bill.

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