



What is the message for  
the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress?

**2012 Summit Policy Agenda**



# America Bikes

- Adventure Cycling Association
- Alliance for Biking and Walking
- Association of Pedestrian and Bicycling Professionals
- Bikes Belong
- International Mountain Bicycling Association
- League of American Bicyclists
- National Center for Bicycling and Walking
- Rails-to-Trails Conservancy



Who is America Bikes-

America Bikes is a coalition of 8 national bicycling and walking advocacy groups.



## Partner Organizations

- 🚲 America Walks
- 🚲 National Complete Streets Coalition
- 🚲 Safe Routes to School National Partnership



We also partner very closely with these other coalitions

We all come together each time the transportation authorization bill to speak with one voice promoting bicycling and walking

Today we are asking you to join us on One message



## 2011 Summit Ask

Will you support continuing dedicated funding for vital bicycling and walking programs such as:

- 🚲 Transportation Enhancements,
- 🚲 Safe Routes to School, and
- 🚲 the Recreational Trails Program?"





## Back to Basics

### 🚲 House

🚲 96 New members

🚲 87 Republicans, 9 Democrats

🚲 35 have never held public office

### 🚲 Senate

🚲 16 New members

🚲 13 Republicans, 3 Democrats

🚲 3 have never held public office

Before we talk about the specific ask for this Congress. I want to give a little background on why the ask is different this year from the last few years.

First, this is a new Congress with several new members.

By keeping our ask simple and focusing on maintaining existing funds we are able to educate on the benefits of biking and walking in general before getting into the specifics of new asks.

Given this new Congress, and the overwhelming rush to cut we're experiencing, our first job is really to educate members about our programs, the benefits and the constituency in their districts



## Back to Basics- Strategy

### 🚲 Defense

- 🚲 Cut- Focused Congress
- 🚲 2011 Appropriations/ Budget

### 🚲 Reauthorization

- 🚲 ACT ACT
- 🚲 Complete Streets
- 🚲 Safe Routes to School



Second- the current debate in Congress is on what else can be cut, and how much more can be cut. For these first few months of Congress we have focused on in district meetings and educational meetings and it has kept us out of the firing line.

Right now we are still in defense mode. The 2011 budget is still up in the air and we may still see attacks on maintaining Transportation Enhancements and SRTS

Once the 2011 budget is finished we can start working on our offense for the 2012 budget and the Reauthorization bill.

At past summits our ask had been for co sponsorship. While these bills are not introduced yet, so an ask for co sponsorship would be premature, we are in the process of preparing for reintroduction

However its premature now for us to push for bills that haven't yet been introduced.



## 2012 Summit “Ask”

 **MAKE THE POINT**

 **MAKE THE ASK**

 **MAKE THE INVITATION**



So the purpose of this session is to outline the ask for your meetings tomorrow. And the M



## Make the Point

- 🚲 Bicycling and walking are essential to your district
- 🚲 Local Business
- 🚲 Local Economy
- 🚲 Local Support





## Make the Ask

Will you support continuing dedicated funding for vital bicycling and walking programs such as the:

- 🚲 Transportation Enhancements,
- 🚲 Safe Routes to School
- 🚲 The Recreational Trails Program?"





## Make the Invitation

Invite your Member of Congress to see for themselves the impact of these funding programs in their district.





## Make the Ask

Will you support continuing dedicated funding for vital bicycling and walking programs such as:

- 🚲 Transportation Enhancements,
- 🚲 Safe Routes to School
- 🚲 The Recreational Trails Program?"

