



New Opportunities for Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure

What is it?

The New Opportunities for Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure Financing Act of 2014 would take steps to advance equity for bicyclists and pedestrians, and offer mayors and communities a new tool for funding for bike/ped projects in low-income communities. The New Opportunities bill will allow communities to take advantage of low-cost financing for projects that make streets and sidewalks safer for all users through a new federal credit assistance program that would direct millions specifically for low-income communities. Twenty-five percent of the funding must be spent in low-income communities. The funding, \$11 million, is a set aside from the \$1 billion dollar TIFIA loan program funded in MAP-21.

Why should I support it?

It provides common sense transportation solutions.

» The bill offers a new tool for mayors and local governments to finance needed transportation infrastructure, and doesn't add any new costs to the transportation bill or federal budget.

It builds better integrated bicycling and multi-modal networks that reduce transportation costs and close gaps in job access for low-income families and individuals.

» Nationally the average family earning less than \$50,000 per year spends 30% of its income on transportation.

» Residents earning less than \$30,000 per year accounted for 28% of bike trips in 2009 — more than 1.1 billion bike trips overall.

It helps commuters.

» Americans are driving less, and want to bike and walk more. Creating safe infrastructure gives commuters cheap and safe options.

» From 2000-2012, bike commuting rose 61% nationwide, but 80% in Bicycle Friendly Communities. Where infrastructure is safe and accessible, people bike more.

It meets the need for safety and infrastructure

» There are still disparities in access to safe infrastructure for low-income communities and people of color across the country.

» Bicycling and walking make up 12% of all trips, but more than 16% of all fatalities.

» Compared to white bicyclists, the fatality rate is 23% higher for Hispanic bicyclists and 30% higher for African American bicyclists.

» 71% of people of color agree that safer bicycling would make their community better.

Bill number

HR 3978, Senate bill to be introduced

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