

## Transportation Reauthorization Bill Talking Points – House of Representatives (updated 5/9/12)

- ASLA urges the House to support a **long-term comprehensive transportation reauthorization bill that includes active transportation programs** and policies like the Transportation Enhancements (TE), Safe Routes To School, Recreational Trails, National Scenic Byways programs.
- Communities across America are accessing these programs to **provide** cost-effective transportation choices, **strengthen** local economies, and **create** local job opportunities.
- Active transportation like bicycling and walking makes up **12% of all trips** in the United States, **but receives less than 2%** of federal transportation funding. MAP-21 allocates about 1.65% of the overall bill's funding to the four active transportation programs.
- **Active transportation saves families money.** With gas prices continuing to soar, families are in dire need of low-cost transportation options that also provide a myriad of other benefits.
- There is strong bipartisan support for active transportation projects. In a recent Princeton Survey Research Associates International poll, **80% of Republican respondents and 88% of Democrat respondents think Congress should maintain or increase federal funds for biking and walking.**
- In small towns and rural communities, between 6.9% – 9.6% of all trips are made by biking and walking. In fact, a recent study, *Active Transportation Beyond Urban Centers: Walking and Biking in Small Towns and Rural America*, demonstrates that **rural communities are increasingly accessing federal active transportation programs to attract businesses and tourism** and attract and retain much-needed workers.
- Active transportation projects **create jobs:** A December 2010 study conducted by the Political Economy Research Institute found that for each \$1 million spent on bike lanes, approximately 14 jobs are created. Compare this to \$1 million spent on road repair work that generated about 7 jobs.
- Active transportation projects **help small businesses:** Unlike large highway projects that are built by large construction firms, most active transportation projects are planned, designed, and built by small businesses, including small landscape architecture firms. Cutting or reducing federal active transportation programs would directly impact small landscape architecture firms and the other small businesses working on these projects.
- A recent ASLA survey showed that 72% of respondents access TE funding to plan and design projects, with 62% accessing the Recreational Trails programs, and 41% using SRTS funding. **These programs are providing job opportunities for our profession and other workers during these critical economic times.**
- **Active transportation is a smart investment.** Using modest funds, active transportation projects, which cost much less than major highway projects, provide a safe, healthy transportation option for urban, suburban and rural communities. In some communities, SRTS projects are replacing expensive school bus service, while combating childhood obesity in children.
- **The ASK: Please support a final transportation reauthorization bill that includes TE, Safe Routes To School, Recreational Trails and Scenic Byways programs that create jobs for landscape architects and other small businesses while also providing economic benefits in our local communities.**