

SUPPORTING THE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM

Talking Points

- The Transportation Alternatives (TA) program is the largest and most critical source of dedicated funding for active transportation projects. The program supports bike/ped projects, the Recreational Trails Program, Safe Routes to School projects, and improvements to transportation assets.
- Communities want more cost-effective transportation options, like biking and walking. Unfortunately, available funding does not meet the demand for increased bike/ped projects. The TA program helps meet that demand.
- The **Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program** has helped millions of children safely walk or bike to and from school. The program helps communities make infrastructure improvements like constructing sidewalks, bike lanes, pathways, safe crossings, traffic signals, and more. The demand for these projects continues to grow, and in some communities, SRTS projects are replacing expensive bus service.
- A Rails to Trails Conservancy study found that active transportation infrastructure **contributes more than \$34 billion annually** to the U.S. economy—an amount that could grow to \$135 billion with improved network connectivity.
- The Urban Land Institute found that bike-friendly cities and towns enjoy **increased tourism**, including extended stays and return visits.
- Landscape architects are uniquely educated and trained to be the **lead designers of active transportation projects**. A recent Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) Job Task Analysis determined that multimodal circulation and connectivity competencies are embedded in landscape architects' qualifications.
- Bicycle and pedestrian projects **help small businesses**. Unlike large highway projects, these active transportation projects are planned, designed, and built by small firms such as small landscape architecture firms, small suppliers, and small construction companies.
- Active transportation projects **generate 10 to 23 jobs** per \$1 million spent, whereas traditional road projects create roughly 8 jobs per \$1 million.
- A study published in the *Journal of Transport & Health* (2019) found that communities with protected bike lanes saw **44% fewer deaths and 50% fewer serious injuries** compared to communities without them.
- Green infrastructure or vegetation management projects are critical to most transportation projects, helping to **stabilize the project and prevent erosion**. These projects also help prevent flooding by absorbing and managing stormwater.
- Active transportation projects **promote healthy lifestyles** and can prevent many diseases. These projects also emit less pollution that can contribute to asthma and other health concerns.
- **The ASK—Senate:** Support a robust TA program that includes all project categories and is funded at \$1.6 billion annually. Support any efforts to prevent TA funds from being transferred for other purposes.
- **The ASK—House of Representatives:** Vote for a final transportation reauthorization bill with a robust TA program that includes all project categories and is funded at \$1.6 billion annually. Support any efforts to prevent TA funds from being transferred for other purposes.