



May 21, 2010

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius
The U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Director Thomas Frieden, MD, MPH
Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Secretary Sebelius and Director Frieden,

We are writing to thank you for the Centers for Disease Control's *Recommendations for Improving Health through Transportation Policy*, and making the connection between our transportation system and public health. We are eager to work with you to advocate for these policies

We commend the policy statement's assertion that our transportation system can promote health while accomplishing the primary transportation objectives. We believe a number of your recommended actions, such as expanding public transportation, promoting active transportation and encouraging health community design support Secretary of Transportation LaHood's emphasis on safety and livability.

Transportation for America's "Dangerous by Design" report last year chronicled the 76,000 preventable pedestrian deaths over the last fifteen years due to unsafe streets. By highlighting the need to improve safety not only through traditional safety measures, but also through reducing vehicle miles traveled and increasing transportation choices for people of all ages and abilities, the CDC policy promotes a transportation system that encourages Americans to get moving and get healthy.

We have a lot of work to do. We should start by integrating policies that increase safety and accessibility for pedestrians and bicyclists, including Complete Streets and Safe Routes to School, into federal law so that new projects receiving funds accommodate all users of the road. We should also advocate funding for Active Transportation networks in our cities, towns and metropolitan areas. We look forward to working with you on a new surface transportation law that broadens transportation choices for all Americans and introduces new benchmarks for our federal dollars, including health and safety measures.

Thank you for your leadership highlighting the connection between our nation's health and its transportation system.

Sincerely,

America Bikes
National Complete Streets Coalition
Safe Routes to School National Partnership