

**Local Elected Officials:
Please ask Congress to preserve funding for bicycling and walking**

Mayors, city councils and other local elected leaders often rely on the existing federal transportation programs—Transportation Enhancements, Safe Routes to School, and Recreational Trails—for much-needed dollars to support bicycling and walking infrastructure. These improvements make it safer for children and families, increase transportation accessibility between homes, schools, jobs and store, and make towns and cities more economically competitive.

However, the U.S. Congress has been debating eliminating these programs altogether, which would leave all transportation funding entirely in the hands of state Departments of Transportation. The Senate reached a good compromise, called the [Cardin-Cochran agreement](#), that ensures that local governments will be able to compete for these transportation dollars.

The House and Senate have now entered into a conference on the transportation bills to work out their differences and produce a final transportation law. We need local elected officials—mayors, city councilors, county officials and more—to contact Congress to urge them to retain the Cardin-Cochran compromise.

Simply use the two letter versions below to contact your two Senators and Representative. There are two versions, one for the nearly 50 Members of Congress who have been appointed to the transportation conference (conferees), and one for all other Members of Congress. Here are step-by-step resources to help you in sending the letter:

1. Go here: <http://www.contactingthecongress.org/> to find contact information for your Members of Congress. We recommend either emailing or faxing your letter as regular mail takes too long.
2. Look at the list of Transportation conferees by state to determine which of the letters below you should use: <http://www.saferoutespartnership.org/blog/congressional-conference-transportation-gears#confbystate>
3. Use the letter templates on the following pages to craft your letter. Text that you need to replace is in brackets. Please also personalize with information specific to your community.
4. For questions, please contact Margo Pedroso, Safe Routes to School National Partnership, margo@saferoutespartnership.org. Please also email a copy of completed letters to Margo so we can follow up with Congressional offices.

Thank you very much!

Letter to send to Members of Congress that **ARE** on the conference committee:

The Honorable [First Name Last Name]
U.S. [Senate or House of Representatives]
Washington, DC [Zip]

Dear [Representative or Senator] [Last Name]:

On behalf of [insert city/county], I ask you to maintain the Cardin-Cochran agreement from MAP-21, in the conference report on the Surface Transportation Bill. The Cardin-Cochran agreement devolves a small portion of federal transportation dollars to local governments, providing flexibility and funding certainty to counties, cities and towns.

MAP-21 sets aside a percentage of funds under the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program for “Additional Activities”. This program includes Transportation Enhancements with expanded eligibility, Safe Routes to School and some road uses. These programs have traditionally been used for a variety of smaller-scale, local transportation projects such as building sidewalks, bikeways and safety improvements that make downtowns economically competitive. The Cardin-Cochran agreement ensures these funds reach local governments through suballocation and grant competitions open to local governmental entities.

[Please consider replacing this paragraph below with information specific to your community.]

Bicycling and walking are critical to keeping our communities moving with healthy, safe, and accessible transportation options.

- Bicycling and walking make up 12 percent of all trips, but bicycling and walking projects receive less than 1.5% of federal transportation dollars.
- One-quarter of children’s traffic deaths happen when they are walking or bicycling and are struck by cars. Safe Routes to School funds help ensure funding for critical sidewalks, crosswalks and safety infrastructure to protect children and prevent unnecessary deaths.
- When town centers are bicycling and walking friendly, business and economic development improves.

Please maintain local access to this small program, by maintaining the Cardin-Cochran agreement to Additional Activities in MAP-21.

I look forward to hearing back from you about your position and actions. Thank you for standing up for me on this important issue.

Sincerely,
[your name, title and contact information]

Letter to send to Members of Congress that are **NOT** on the conference committee:

The Honorable [First Name Last Name]
U.S. [Senate or House of Representatives]
Washington, DC [Zip]

Dear [Representative or Senator] [Last Name]:

On behalf of [insert city/county], I want to express the importance of local access to transportation dollars, and ask that you weigh in with Transportation Conference Committee members on behalf of the Cardin-Cochran agreement from MAP-21. The Cardin-Cochran agreement devolves a small portion of federal transportation dollars to local governments, providing flexibility and funding certainty to counties, cities and towns.

MAP-21 sets aside a percentage of funds under the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program for “Additional Activities”. This program includes Transportation Enhancements with expanded eligibility, Safe Routes to School and some road uses. These programs have traditionally been used for a variety of smaller-scale, local transportation projects such as building sidewalks, bikeways and other safety improvements that make downtowns economically competitive. The Cardin-Cochran agreement ensures these funds reach local governments through suballocation and grant competitions open to local governmental entities.

[Please consider replacing this paragraph below with information specific to your community.]

Bicycling and walking are critical to keeping our communities moving with healthy, safe, and accessible transportation options.

- Bicycling and walking make up 12 percent of all trips, but bicycling and walking projects receive less than 1.5% of federal transportation dollars.
- One-quarter of children’s traffic deaths happen when they are walking or bicycling and are struck by cars. Safe Routes to School funds help ensure funding for critical sidewalks, crosswalks and safety infrastructure to protect children and prevent unnecessary deaths.
- When town centers are bicycling and walking friendly, business and economic development improves.

Please weigh in with Transportation Conference Committee members and ask them to maintain the Cardin-Cochran agreement to Additional Activities in MAP-21.

I look forward to hearing back from you about your position and actions. Thank you for standing up for me on this important issue.

Sincerely,
[your name, title and contact information]