



peopleforbikes



January 13th, 2020

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
2134 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
1135 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves,

On behalf of PeopleForBikes, the North American Bikeshare Association, the League of American Bicyclists and Uber, we write to urge you to prioritize the safety of vulnerable roadway users such as bicyclists, scooter riders and pedestrians in your upcoming reauthorization of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015.

Today, American cities are continuing to experience growing populations and time-consuming congestion. In response, more city residents are utilizing reliable and affordable modes such as bicycles — docked, dockless, and electric. This is a welcomed development; bicycles and other micromobility options such as scooters are environmentally-friendly transportation alternatives that can reduce traffic gridlock, increase transit connectivity, and improve overall public health.

However, as these modes have continued to increase in popularity, fatalities for non-motorist travelers have also increased. In 2018 alone 6,283 pedestrians and 857 cyclists died on our roadway — a 35 percent increase over the last decade. These numbers are preventable and demonstrate the real and urgent need to invest in new mobility infrastructure and safety initiatives that can better protect riders who share the road with motor vehicles.

Moving forward, we believe it is crucial that Congress take the lead in building infrastructure that makes different modes of transportation equally safe and accessible for all neighborhoods and residents. The U.S. Senate has already taken the first step in this process with the Committee on Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW) unanimously passing S.2302, the America's Transportation Infrastructure Act (ATIA). This bill makes key improvements to funding new mobility programs bicycle-friendly policies by:

- **Improves the Transportation Alternatives Program:** Enhances the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), the largest program benefiting bike and new mobility infrastructure, by making the program more accessible and more available to local communities. The change will make TAP run more efficiently and will help communities build better bicycling and walking infrastructure, like trails, pedestrian and bike bridges, and protected bike lanes.
- **Prioritizing Vulnerable Roadway Users' Safety:** Allocates \$250 million for the purpose of increasing safety for vulnerable roadway users including people on bikes and scooters, as well as pedestrians. The funds incentivize states and localities to create plans and benchmarks for

reducing fatalities and significant injuries for non-motorists, ultimately making roads safer for vulnerable users traveling in areas with higher than average fatalities.

- **Developing Connected Networks:** Creates initiatives that acknowledge the importance of connected networks for walking and bicycling. A new Complete Streets policy would require states and metropolitan planning organizations to dedicate 2.5% of their planning and research funds to develop connected active-transportation networks and improve the safety of walkers and bicyclists. The bill would also create a pilot program to provide modeling data on the accessibility of transportation networks to important destinations such as jobs and health care by multiple transportation modes.
- **Addressing Climate Change:** Invests \$10 billion over five years in projects — including the development of facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists — aimed at reducing emissions and enhancing resilience, and improving emergency response to natural disasters in the face of a changing climate.

PeopleforBikes, the League of American Bicyclists, the North American Bikeshare Association, and Uber commend the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works for unanimously passing these key provisions and ask that the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure support and build on these programs as it develops its surface transportation reauthorization package.

Thank you for your past leadership in developing forward-looking policies and acknowledging the importance of modernizing our nation's infrastructure to address the changing nature of transportation; the continued growth of mobility options means there are more safe, reliable options to get around for all Americans in every community. We look forward to continuing to work with you and the committee to help shape a safer and more sustainable future.

Respectfully,

Danielle Burr

Head of Federal Affairs, Uber Technologies, Inc.

Jenn Dice

Chief Operating Officer, PeopleForBikes

Samantha Herr

Executive Director, North American Bikeshare Association

Bill Nesper

Executive Director, League of American Bicyclists

CC: The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
The Honorable Rodney Davis
The Honorable John Barrasso
The Honorable Tom Carper
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
The Honorable Ben Cardin