Public Health Organizations Support Active Transportation in Surface Transportation Reauthorization

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Chair
The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse, Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sam Graves, Chair
The Honorable Rick Larsen, Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May XX, 2026

Dear Chair Moore Capito, Ranking Member Whitehouse, Chair Graves, and Ranking Member Larsen:

The undersigned public health organizations urge Congress to prioritize **active transportation— walking, bicycling, and rolling—in the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization.** Strong federal investment in active transportation is essential to improving public health, mitigating congestion, improving air quality, and reducing injuries and deaths on our nation's roads.

Transportation policy is public health policy. Communities with safe and connected walking and bicycling infrastructure experience increased physical activity, improved mental health, lower rates of chronic disease, cleaner air, and reduced healthcare costs. Active transportation also provides affordable, reliable mobility options for millions of Americans, including children, older adults, people with disabilities, and those who cannot or choose not to drive. This allows people to access essential services such as food, jobs, schools, healthcare, and essential services as well as making it easier for people to age at home and in their communities.

Investments in active transportation are critical to addressing the gaps in the American transportation system. Many low-income communities, communities of color, and rural areas face unsafe streets and limited transportation choices, contributing to worse health outcomes and higher traffic fatality rates. For example, 2022 marked the deadliest year on record for pedestrians in 40 years, with over 7,500 people killed in motor vehicle crashes, reflecting longstanding safety gaps in roadway design and infrastructure.

As Congress develops the next surface transportation authorization, we respectfully urge you to:

- **Protect and expand dedicated funding** for walking, bicycling and rolling infrastructure.
- **Prioritize safety for vulnerable road users** through Complete Streets, Safe Routes to School and other proven design strategies and safety measures.
- **Center community need** in program design and project selection; and make it easier for local communities to access the necessary funds for those projects.
- **Ensure accountability** by measuring health, safety, and access outcomes.

A transportation system that supports active transportation is fundamental to a healthier, safer, and more resilient nation. We stand ready to work with you to ensure the next surface transportation reauthorization reflects the health and mobility needs of all people.

Sincerely,