



Smart Growth America
Making Neighborhoods Great Together



**National Complete
Streets Coalition**

1707 L St. NW, Suite 250
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202-207-3355

www.smartgrowthamerica.org/completestreets

November 12, 2015

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public
Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public
Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
House Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
House Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Inhofe and Shuster, and Ranking Members Boxer and DeFazio:

On behalf of the National Complete Streets Coalition, we are pleased and encouraged by your respective chambers passage of multi-year transportation reauthorization bills (H.R. 22, H.R. 3763) that prioritize safety for motorized and non-motorized users.

As the House-Senate conference meets to resolve the differences between these two critically important bills, we urge you to include adequate provisions in the final transportation authorization to ensure the safety of motorized and non-motorized users. Specifically, we urge you to accept the bipartisan language in section 12208 including all of the language under the heading "Safety for Motorized and Nonmotorized Users" in the Senate passed version of the Developing a Reliable and Innovative Vision for the Economy Act (H.R. 22). Retaining this language will help to ensure that all Americans, regardless of age, ability, income, race, or ethnicity, have safe access to community destinations and public places—whether walking, driving, bicycling, or taking public transportation.

Americans face a legacy of roadways that fail to account for the safety of people on foot. In the decade from 2003 through 2012, more than 47,000 people died while walking on our streets. That is 16 times the number of people who died in natural disasters during the same ten years, but without the corresponding level of urgency. Nationally, pedestrians



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represented 12.3 percent of total traffic deaths over this decade. In 2012, pedestrians accounted for nearly 15 percent of all traffic deaths, up 6 percent from 2011 and representing a five-year high.

While the House Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act (H.R. 3763) acknowledges the need for proper planning and project design to reduce pedestrian fatalities, it does not factor in the unique role that federal design standards have on state and local implementation. Without improved federal design standards that are based on best available data and research, the effectiveness of the House provision to reduce pedestrian injuries and fatalities will be minimal. The Senate provision strengthens the ability for future federal infrastructure investments to promote safety for all users; provide opportunities for healthy, active living and increased travel choices; support prosperity in local economies; and reduce household transportation costs for American families.

Thank you for your dedication and hard work aimed at securing a multi-year transportation bill. Again, we respectfully request that any final reauthorization package retain the bipartisan language in section 12208 including all of the language under the heading “Safety for Motorized and Nonmotorized Users” as passed by the Senate and as supported by several national organizations.

We look forward to working with you to ensure our nation has a strong transportation infrastructure that ensures the safety for all its users. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me, or have your staff contact Christopher Coes at 202-971-3924.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Emiko Atherton".

Emiko Atherton
Director, National Complete Streets Coalition

AARP

Alliance for Biking & Walking

America Walks

American College of Sports Medicine



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American Planning Association

American Society of Landscape Architects

Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals

Easter Seals

Institute of Transportation Engineers

The League of American Bicyclists

Smart Growth America

SvR Design Company

United Spinal Association