

# Protect Biking and Walking Federal Funding

Bill Nesper <billnesper@bikeleague.org>

Mon 5/19/2014 3:47 PM

To: John Holic <JHolic@Venicegov.com>;

Dear Mayor John W. Holic:

Thank you for your dedication to building a Bicycle Friendly Community. We appreciate the work you are doing to make bicycling safer and more accessible. Building a bicycle-friendly Venice will translate into a more connected, active, and sustainable community that enjoys increased quality of life, economic vibrancy, and more transportation choices for citizens.

We wanted to make you aware of a [sign on letter for Mayor's](#), championed by the US Conference of Mayors and the League of Cities, asking Congress to continue to support the Transportation Alternatives Program. The Transportation Alternatives program is the biggest funding source for bicycle and pedestrian projects and an important source of funding for small, local transportation projects. Protecting and expanding this funding source ensures communities like yours can continue to make it safer and more convenient for people to bicycle (and get the recognition for it too)!

The current transportation bill expires September 30, 2014 and Congress is now debating policy for the next bill. Please consider [signing onto this letter](#) to let Congress know that you support continuing and increasing funding for the Transportation Alternatives program. We appreciate your continued support.

Thank you,

**BILL NESPER**, Vice President, Programs  
[BILL@BIKELEAGUE.ORG](mailto:BILL@BIKELEAGUE.ORG) | [202-621-5444](tel:202-621-5444)

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<http://usmayors.org/transportationalternativesletter/> - sign on page

<http://usmayors.org/transportationalternativesletter/USCM%20NLC%20TAP%20Transportation%20Program%20Signon%20Letter.pdf> - actual letter

[jholic@ci.venice.fl.us](mailto:jholic@ci.venice.fl.us)



(date of letter will be when signatures are added)

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
Chairman  
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boxer:

As representatives of the nation's cities, we are writing to convey our support for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) that was first authorized in the "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act" (MAP-21) and enacted in 2012. This new initiative simply reinforces the importance of local elected officials being at the table to ensure that we secure maximum economic and transportation benefits from available federal resources.

Since then, TAP resources have been allocated to cities, counties and regions, supporting local elected leaders in advancing investments in transportation alternatives that enhance the safety and performance of our highway and street networks. For some time, mayors and other city elected officials have been strong partners with you and others in Congress on surface transportation, especially as you affirm the important role of local elected leaders in deciding how federal resources are invested, as you did in establishing the TAP Program. We thank you for responding to our recommendations to localize more of the available federal highway program resources.

As you move forward with MAP-21 renewal, we are supportive of technical adjustments to make the TAP program more effective in support of local project needs. As one example, we urge you to follow the STP Program by delivering obligation authority with the formula program funds, as the STP program has provided since 1992. This would be a significant improvement over current law.

As city officials, we thank you for your leadership on this program, and we urge you to continue to affirm the role of local elected leaders as you advance legislation renewing MAP-21. We appreciate this opportunity to share our views with you.

Sincerely,