ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS

Expertise for Active Transportation

Federal Policy Update- Entering the Lame Duck

CARON WHITAKER

POLICY SPECIALIST

CARON@CLWCONSULTING.NET

Where we left off:

US DOT bikelash

- 15th Street bike lane fight
- Freedom to Drive

Grants in Limbo

Congress

- House Transportation Committee passed bill
- Senate hasn't moved
- FY 2027 Budget did not include SSFA

apbp
ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

AGENDA

US DOT bikelash

Congress

- transportation reauthorization extension
- Policy
- FY 2027 Budget

Congressionally Directed Funding

How you can help

apbp ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

US DOT Bikelash

apbp
ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

DEI Bike Lanes

apbp
ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

Removed Proven Safety Countermeasures

Bicycle Lanes

Road Diets (Roadway Reconfiguration)

Appropriate Speed Limits for All Road Users

Speed Safety Cameras

Variable Speed Limits

apbp
ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

APBP letter to Congress

Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety
America Walks
American Society of Landscape Architects
Association for Commuter Transportation
Center for Auto Safety
Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways
City of Wheat Ridge, District 2
Families for Safe Streets
GreenLatinos
Just Strategy
Kids and Car Safety
League of American Bicyclists
National Association of City Transportation Officials
Parents Against Tired Truckers
PeopleForBikes
Plug In America
Rails To Trails Conservancy
Safe Routes Partnership
The White Line
Truck Safety Coalition
Union of Concerned Scientists
Vision Zero Network

August 5, 2026

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman
Senate Environment & Public Works Committee
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
Senate Environment & Public Works Committee
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

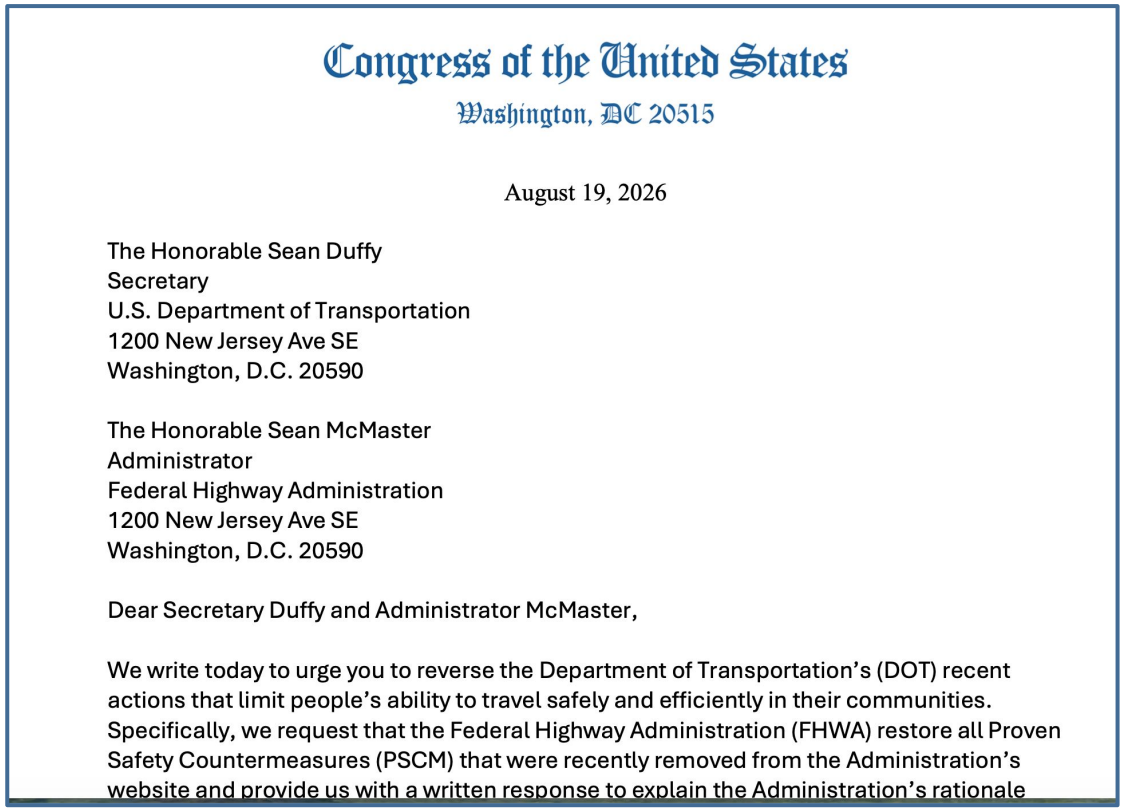
The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 2051

Dear Chairman Capito, Chairman Graves, Ranking Member Whitehouse and Ranking Member Larsen,

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to inform you about the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) recent deletion of five vital transportation safety tools from its list of Proven Safety Countermeasures (PSCs). These PSCs were deleted without any

apbp ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

Congressional response



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 19, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

The Honorable Sean McMaster
Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy and Administrator McMaster,

We write today to urge you to reverse the Department of Transportation's (DOT) recent actions that limit people's ability to travel safely and efficiently in their communities. Specifically, we request that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) restore all Proven Safety Countermeasures (PSCM) that were recently removed from the Administration's website and provide us with a written response to explain the Administration's rationale

28 Dems sent letter to Sec. Duffy asking for

- reinstate PSC
- hold a briefing

Senate Dems also weighed in in support of letter asks.

apbp ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

USDOT Reauthorization Priorities

- Remove Transit from the Highway Trust Fund
- Remove the 2.5% of state/ metropolitan planning for complete streets
- Consolidate Competitive Grant programs
- Protect Consumer Choice to buy cars without automated standards
- Eliminate:
  - Carbon reduction program
  - Healthy Streets
  - Reconnecting Communities
  - Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program
  - SMART (tech grants)

And

apbp ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

Prioritize Motor Vehicle Travel over Bike Lanes

*…We urge Congress to **restrict competitive and formula grant funding for bicycle lanes and other bicycle infrastructure** that reduce travel throughput for motor vehicles and **support removal of existing bike lanes** that contribute to congestion.*

apbp
ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

National Roadway Safety Strategy- revised

Removed Safe speeds completely

Also removes emphasis on

- People make mistakes
- Redundancy is crucial

Focus on Enforcement + Education

apbp
ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

Changing NOFOs

PROTECT Program

- Climate resiliency program grant funds are for:
  - Resiliency plans and implementing projects from those plans
  - Community Resilience and Evacuation routes
  - At-Risk Coast Infrastructure
-

West Memphis, AR
Resiliency project
National Wildlife Federation

apbp ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

PROTECT NOFO

Under DOT Priority Considerations

DOT may prioritize projects that repurpose existing specialized travel lanes for bicycles, buses, or pedestrians for general purpose use by all motor vehicles, including single occupant motor vehicles…. [as long as project follows restrictions in the law]

apbp ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

NPS- Bikes and E-bikes allowed in Parks

Current law, NPS must NPS must prepare an environmental assessment (EA)/ environmental impact statement (EIS)

- designation of existing trails to accommodate bicycle use,
- development of new trails,
- trail construction activities
- the authorization of new trails for bicycle use.
- And a public process

apbp ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

NPS- Bikes and E-bikes allowed in Parks

Proposed rule removes environmental review or a public process.

- Takes it out of the land managers' hands.

Administration lost 15th Street bike lane case because of environmental and public process

PeopleforBikes is reviewing.

- They have advocated for e-bikes in general, but not this.

apbp ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

Grants

Grants awarded with FY 2023 dollars expire Sept 30, 2026

- Spending deadline- Sept 2032

Grants awarded with FY 2024 dollars expire Sept 30, 2027

- Must get funds obligated by Sept 30, 2027

DOT announced cancellation of TX Safe Streets for All grant.

- More to come?

apbp ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

OMB Rules for federal grants

- Decisions made by political appointees
- Ability to end grants at any time for:
  - Misalignment with administration priorities
  - "reputational harm"
  - Connection with partners that doesn't align
- Elimination of fixed amount awards
- Preference for lower indirect costs
- Advertising/PR costs largely ineligible
- States must
  - More stringent verification checks before disbursing funds
  - Additional justification to feds for reimbursement

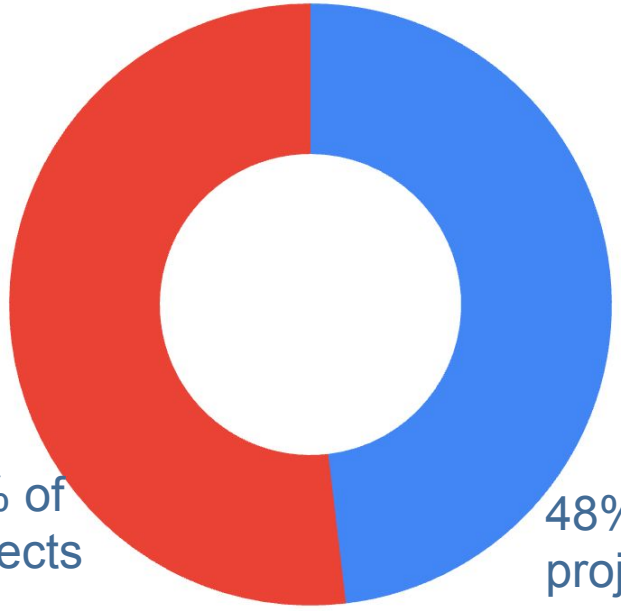
https://cdn.ymaws.com/grantprofessionals.org/resource/resmgr/govt_advocacy/2026/chart_omb_2026_v3.pdf

apbp ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

Good News

Transportation Alternatives Annual Reports are Out

- Show an increasing demand for Transportation Alternatives programs
- https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation_alternatives/annual_reports/



52% of projects not awarded

48% of projects awarded

$1 dollar: $10-11 dollars

requested awarded

apbp ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS

Expertise for Active Transportation

Congress- Reauthorization Extension

apbp
ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

Congress Extends Reauthorization

House and Senate have passed extension until Dec 11th

Good news

- Puts new OMB rules on hold
- Reverses in part the reprogramming of IIJA funds in the House 2027 budget.
- Extends Highway Trust Fund projects about to expire (not discretionary grants)
- Extends the expiration date of FY 2018 Transit Capital Investment Grant

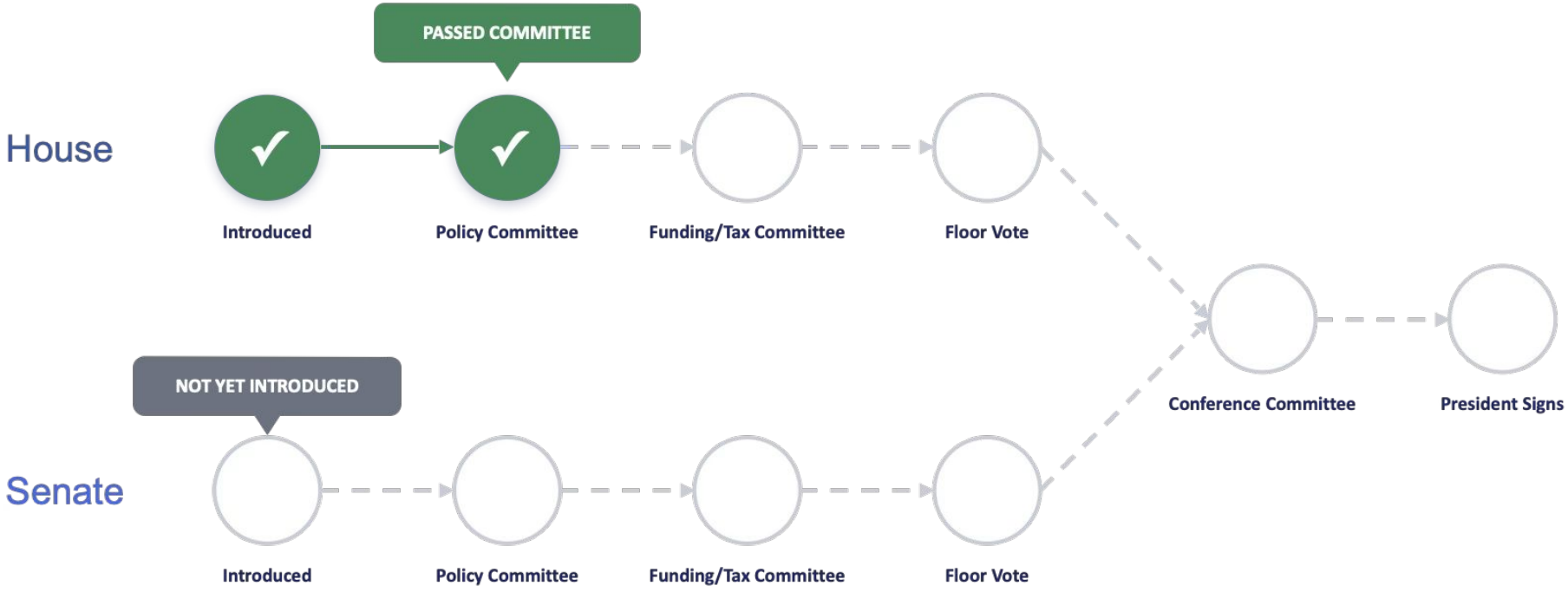
apbp ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

But, it does not fund Advanced Appropriations programs

	Core Programs	Authorized	Advanced Appropriations
Programs covered:	TAP STBG Highway Safety CMAQ Transit bus programs	ATIIP Healthy Streets	**Safe Streets for All** **ASAP / Transit accessibility** Bridge Program **½ Reconnecting Communities** Amtrak **Transit CIG**
Funding source:	Highway Trust Fund Guaranteed	General Fund-Budget Not Guaranteed	General Fund Guaranteed for 5 years
Legislative process:	Reauthorization	Budget	*reauth (one time only)*

apbp ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

Transportation Reauthorization Process



apbp
ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

Next Congress

January 3, 2027-

- New Congress gets sworn in.
- All bills expire

Transportation bill may be extended until Sept 30, 2027

- New members need time to staff up and get committee assignments
- New leadership of committee needs time to staff up.

apbp ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

Funding SSFA

apbp
ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

What this means for SSFA

From now until Dec. 11th

- No practical fall out.
- Does not affect awarded grants.
- Funding must follow IIJA deadline
  - Funding awards must be made 270 days after NOFO

If not resolved by Dec 11th

- Could miss 2027 season
- IIJA included specific language that the NOFO goes out 180 days after funds available.

Congress

- Overall Congress loves this program
- Important to notify about SSFA successes

apbp ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

Opportunities to reinstate

December 11th- deadline for IIJA extension AND Federal Budget.

- Congress can reinstate SSFA through multiple process.

	Full Reauth	Reauth extension	FY 2027
Funding	up to $500 m/yr in 2027	?	$200 m/yr
Ease	Highest	Lowest	Mid
Overall Likelihood by Dec 11th	Low	High	High

apbp ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

What to do in the meantime

Safe Streets for All projects-

- Not necessarily eligible for Highway Safety or other funds.

Projects must be included in plans

- State/ MPO Transportation Improvement Plan
- State Strategic Highway Safety Plan

Tennessee-

- integrating local SSFA plans into Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

apbp ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

Congressionally Directed Funding (Earmarks)

Feb- March 2027- Must have full application ready to submit to Congress including

- Support
  - Project sponsor request (local/ State/ Regional govt)
  - Local match identified or commitment to find match
  - Community Support
- Readiness
  - Project should be in STIP/TIP or Safety Plan*
  - And/or other plans
- Project
  - ~$ 1-7 million
  - Best if it can be broken down into phases
  - Design and preliminary engineering projects work well
-

apbp ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

FY 2027 House Process

Feb 15th - House Appropriations Committee released guidance

- Required members to submit requests by March 27th
- Each member can make up to 20 requests (across whole federal budget)

Each office opened portals Feb 20th- March 20th

- Offices may have their own requirements

Members must include their requests on website March 27th

Final list of Transportation projects

- Highway projects begin on page 10

apbp ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

Tips on Earmarks

Start early

- November/ December
- Pick projects in an incumbent's district
- If you have a Sen/ Rep on Appropriations committee that is helpful
- also member of Majority party and or Swing district

Start with a handful of projects

- Meet early with local government and Congressional office
- Try and find one they agree on.
- Lean towards Congressional priorities.
- Get them out for a visit
- Talk with the Senator offices as well as Representatives

Pick a project that can be scaled down to phases.

apbp ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

Transportation Reauthorization

Upcoming fights

- Bike access on National Highway System roads
- Local vs. State control
- Infrastructure safety success stories

Does it matter in a new Congress?

apbp ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

Road Classification

National Highway System-

- roads designated as essential for national security, commerce and evacuation routes.
- 4% of roads, ~44% of traffic

Pennsylvania Ave NW-NHS,

Federal Aid Highways-

- Other roads or federal interest. Rural arterials, collector roads (major roads that aren't NHS)
- (Non- NHS- ~20% of roads, ~40% of traffic)

East Capitol Street- Federal aid Highway

10th St. NE- Local

Local Roads

- Rural collectors, neighborhood streets
- 75% of roads, ~15% of traffic

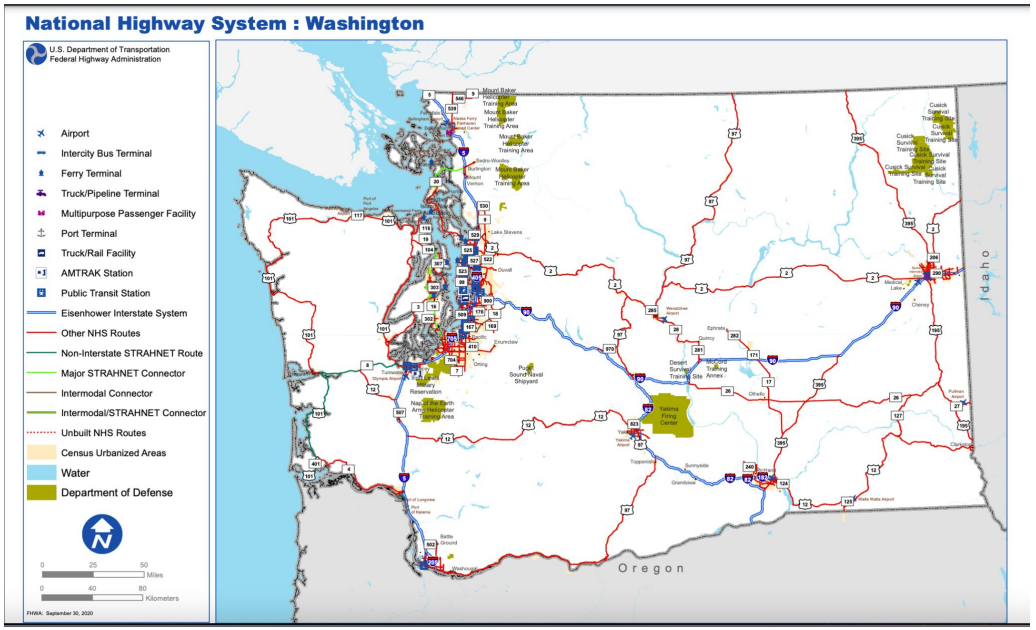
apbp ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

Goal- efficient movement of people and goods

National Highway System

- Interstate, Major arterials
- Roads of national importance
  - Commerce,
  - Defense
- Controlled by State

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/national_highway_system/nhs_maps/ - Link for national and state maps



54% of funding overall
1-4% of bike/ped funding

apbp ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

Before and After Road diet on NHS

ddot Pennsylvania Ave Southeast

apbp ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

Great American Main Street Semi-finalists

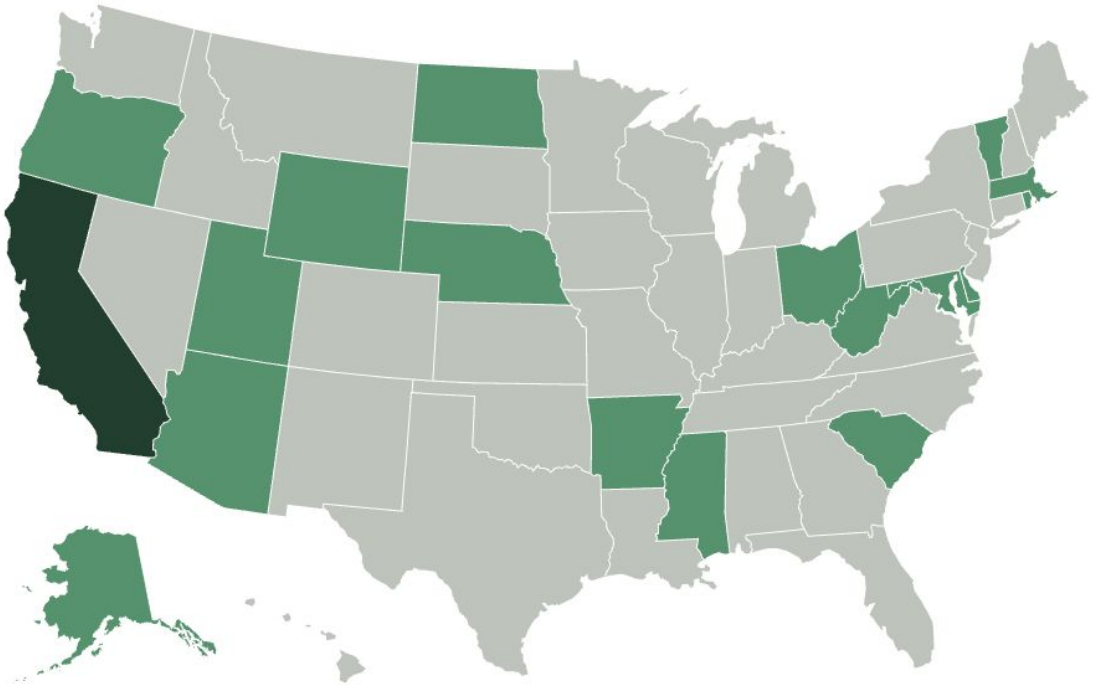
National Trust for Historic Preservation

Steamboat Springs, CO
Pop. 13,557

Wytheville, VA
Pop 8128

apbp ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation

What I need



Examples/ Pictures

NHS roads with:

- Complete Streets features
- Bike lanes
- Intersection safety projects
- Complete Streets
- and/or
- Just rural downtowns

apbp ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS

Expertise for Active Transportation

Other fights

State Control

- EPW leadership interested in block grants to states
  - House bill included a 10 State pilot project
    - State gets all road funding as one block grant
    - NO Transportation Alternatives
    - No VRU special rule
    - No Congestion Mitigation, climate programs
    - (did include 25% suballocation)
- Reduced discretionary grants

Safety as infrastructure (not just behavioral)

- Speed management matters

apbp ASSOCIATION OF PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE PROFESSIONALS
Expertise for Active Transportation