

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 22, 2012

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boxer:

As members of the California Congressional delegation, we thank you for your strong leadership on the surface transportation bill. We write today to ask for your continued support of the bipartisan Cardin-Cochran amendment and urge you to oppose any efforts that would undermine this agreement as the conferees move closer to a final decision on the legislation.

Since 1991, Congress has set aside a small amount of federal transportation investments to go to bike lanes, sidewalks and other small-scale, local transportation projects. These programs —Transportation Enhancements, Safe Routes to School, and the Recreational Trails Program – are supported in California and across the country.

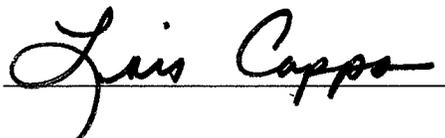
Last week, the U.S. Conference of Mayors passed a resolution urging Congress to protect and increase funding for bicycle and pedestrian programs in the transportation bill process. The NAACP said that these programs can “spur economic and job growth, promote healthy lifestyles, reduce pollution and congestion and help build and solidify communities.”

As you know, the Cardin-Cochran amendment assures that local governments can still access these funds for a variety of smaller-scale, local transportation projects such as building sidewalks, bike lanes and bikeways, curb-cuts and streetscaping. These cost-effective projects are critical to local economic development, transportation accessibility, and pedestrian safety.

We are concerned that some would like to make the entire fund optional. Additionally, we are concerned with the possibility of eliminating the eligibility for the federal Safe Routes to School program, which is critical to helping communities improve safety for children, manage traffic congestion around schools, and address reduced school busing service.

Again, we thank you for your continued leadership on this issue and urge you to maintain the Cardin-Cochran amendment in the final surface transportation bill.

Sincerely,

  
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