

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the undersigned transportation stakeholders, we greatly appreciate your work to pass the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (P.L. 116-136) that responds to the immediate need for emergency transportation in our communities. Access to reliable and affordable transportation services must continue across the country to ensure that those on the frontlines of the response, such as first-responders, healthcare workers, and grocery workers are able to do their critical work for our communities.

While the CARES Act provides much needed support to public transit systems and state and local governments, we must also ensure transit agencies and local governments have the flexibility to develop innovative solutions that support first-last mile connectivity to transit, specifically biking and walking infrastructure, during these unprecedented times. For example, many communities are considering temporary changes to city streets to accommodate additional meal delivery services or are closing streets to cars to provide adequate space for people to travel or exercise while following social distancing guidelines. Cities are stepping up to make bikeshare free for essential workers. Even bikeshops are keeping their doors open to support active transportation during the crisis. Indeed, the Department of Homeland Security declared in its [Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce guidance March 28th, 2020 memo](#) that those businesses who “repair and maintain...bicycles” were deemed essential during the COVID-19 crisis. Maintaining these initiatives during the crisis, and taking steps to make these changes a permanent part of cities’ transportation landscape, will require resources.

To make it easier to quickly adapt infrastructure to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, we respectfully submit the following proposals for consideration in any subsequent emergency relief legislation.

Level barriers to local jurisdictions investing in active transportation infrastructure:

- Allow a blanket waiver to state design guidelines (not including ADA requirements) for temporary projects designed to improve transportation during the crisis for people who normally rely on transit for essential trips.