



New Yorkers for Active Transportation (NY4AT)

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Contact:

Fran Gotcsik, Parks & Trails New York, (585) 797-7098

Nadine Lemmon, Tri-State Transportation Campaign, (917) 767-7698

Josh Wilson, New York Bicycling Coalition, (518) 354-3630

New Yorkers Call on Legislators to Fund Pedestrian and Bicycling Projects

ALBANY, N.Y. -- New Yorkers for Active Transportation (NY4AT) convened around the Empire State Plaza today to meet with legislators calling on them to dedicate funding to improve New York's pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure. The advocacy day is a follow up to other efforts of the group to deliver the same message to the Governor's Office and the New York State Department of Transportation through a postcard campaign and a letter, sent in December 2013, from more than 1300 individuals and 50 organizations representing environmental, health, aging, equity and transportation groups.

The active transportation advocates are requesting that asking their legislators to send a letter to leadership in the Senate and Assembly asking them to ensure that pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure projects receive a continuous, dedicated level of funding in the SFY 2014-2015 and beyond, at least equal to that enjoyed in New York before the federal government reduced dedicated funding by 30 percent.

"We are pleased that Governor Cuomo is making more federal funds for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure projects available to municipalities throughout the state. Despite the growing demand for these projects, this is the first time in four years that municipalities can take advantage of these funds," says Veronica Vanterpool, executive director of the Tri-State Transportation Campaign. "However, this level of federal funding is a 30 percent drop to New York from previous federal funding. This is why a request for an additional \$20 million dedicated to bicycle and pedestrian projects in the state budget is so critical now."

The advocates are also asking legislators to co-sponsor the following bills:

- ***S6340 (Kennedy)/ A8433 (Ryan) Expansion of the Complete Streets law***

This bill would amend the Complete Streets law to also include consideration of accommodations for pedestrians and bicyclists when undertaking resurfacing, maintenance and pavement recycling projects. New York State's current Complete Street law presently only applies to projects classified as construction, reconstruction or rehabilitation and specifically excludes projects classified as resurfacing, maintenance and pavement recycling.

- ***S1356 (Little)/A6089 (Russell) Local control of town road speed limits***

This bill would allow town boards to establish maximum speed limits on town highways classified as local roads located outside of villages in nonsuburban towns having a population of 50,000 or less.

- ***S6496 (Dilan)/A8478 (O'Donnell) Local Control on NYC speed limits***

This bill would allow New York City to reduce the city speed limit by 10 miles per hour.

"An important message that we communicated to our legislators is that active transportation is not just about the lycra-clad bicyclists who ride to work every day. Active transportation includes all users of roads -- children who need to be safe on the sidewalk, senior citizens with limited mobility who want to stay in their homes as they age, and small business owners who benefit from pedestrian traffic. Active transportation is about providing safe and convenient access to everyone who walks and bikes on the roads, trails and sidewalks in New York State," said Parks & Trails New York Executive Director Robin Dropkin.

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NY4AT is a coalition of nonprofits and local governments dedicated to ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to safe opportunities for bicycling and walking in the state's cities, villages, and towns through the development of sidewalks, bike lanes, Complete Streets and multi-use trails. The coalition is coordinated by the New York Bicycling Coalition, Parks & Trails New York and Tri-State Transportation Campaign.