



H.R. xxxx, the Active Community Transportation Act of 2010

Congressman Earl Blumenauer ■ Third District of Oregon ■ www.blumenauer.house.gov

Frequently Asked Questions

Active transportation modes deliver cost-effective mobility to the extent that we invest in safe and convenient places to walk and bicycle. Creating functional networks of these facilities provide quality jobs, make communities more livable, and encourage active lifestyles for the health of Americans and their environment.

What is the intention behind the Active Community Transportation Act?

Americans have shown that they will choose active transportation modes if it is easy, accessible and safe to do so. The ACT Act will provide communities with the funds to build active transportation networks, strategically filling gaps to improve mobility, accessibility and safety for all users and help communities implement the biking and walking facilities essential to attractive and functional cities around the world.

How does the program complement the proposed Metropolitan Mobility Access program outlined in the Surface Transportation Authorization Act of 2009?

The Metropolitan Mobility Access program is designed to reduce transit time within America's urban areas. The ACT Act provides people affordable transportation choices and cost-effectively reduces traffic congestion. It complements MMA by giving communities a tool for reducing transit time and congestion, improving community health and minimizing their carbon footprint.

Where are the funds authorized from?

The bill would set aside funds from the Surface Transportation Program.

Who administers the program and how much will it cost?

The program will be administered by the Secretary of Transportation. Approximately 1.5% of the total amount appropriated will go towards administrative costs. An average of \$400 million annually over five years will be authorized for the program. This is approximately 0.4% - less than one half of one percent - of the projected cost of the Surface Transportation Authorization. Currently bike and pedestrian trips make up over 12% of all transportation trips, yet receive less than 2% of federal funding. Providing funding for a competitive grant program for active transportation programs reduces the need for earmarking and ensures that the programs that receive funding are comprehensive, consistently supported, and the best use of limited taxpayer resources.

What is a qualified community?

Qualified applicants include local or regional governmental organizations, tribal agencies and multi county districts with active transportation plans that demonstrate broad community support, include educational and other non-infrastructure elements, and identify measurable mode shift targets.

Why a two cycle grant program?

The second round of grant applications is designed to help communities who are interested in encouraging active transportation choices, but that need additional time to put together a competitive application. Additionally, communities who receive money in the second round will be able to learn from the experiences and best practices of the first round communities.



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Who supports the Active Community Transportation Act?

Transportation for America, National Resources Defense Council the American Institute of Architects, America Bikes, the Rails to Trails Conservancy, the Outdoor Industry Association, the Safe Routes to Schools Partnership, the Alliance for Bicycling and Walking, , the American Planning Association, Environment America, Humana, American Trails, America Walks, the Association for Commuter Transportation, the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals, Bikes Belong Coalition, the Complete Streets Coalition, the East Coast Greenway Alliance, Equalize, Green Streets Initiative, Inc., International Mountain Bicycling Association, the League of American Bicyclists, the Responsible Real Estate Developers and Investors, SRAM, Trek Bicycle Corporation, the Adventure Cycling Association, the Trust for America's Health, along with over two dozen mayors and community councils.

For more information on Congressman Blumenauer's Livability agenda, contact Tyler Frisbee in DC at (202) 225-4811, or Meeky Blizgard in Portland at (503) 231-2300, or online at <http://blumenauer.house.gov/>.