

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 18, 2013

Re: Safety Performance Measures Needed for Non-Motorized Transportation

Dear Secretary Foxx:

As national organizations who support improving the health of all Americans, we write to congratulate you on your recent confirmation. We pledge our commitment to working with you to continue the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) efforts to promote active transportation, affordable access to goods and services that support health, and safety across all modes in our nation's communities. We likewise were pleased to learn that you recently identified transportation safety as a top priority for DOT.

Specifically, we urge you to establish national safety goals and safety performance measures for bicyclists and pedestrians. As you know, under MAP-21 section 1203(c)(4), the US Department of Transportation is required to set performance measures on safety.

Unfortunately, while overall traffic deaths have gone down, the number of bicyclist and pedestrian fatalities has risen for the past two years – both in terms of actual numbers and a percentage of overall deaths - from 12 percent of all roadway fatalities in 2008 to nearly 16 percent in 2011. Each year, approximately 700 bicyclists are killed and 52,000 are injured.

Now is the time to establish national goals and ensure states are working to address bicyclist and pedestrian safety. Fortunately, MAP-21 has nearly doubled the amount of funding available to states for their Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). Yet without safety goals, there will be little incentive for states to target these funds to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety. The available HSIP funds provided under MAP-21 will allow states to focus some of their funds on bicycle and pedestrian safety without taking away from their safety efforts aimed at other road users.

Thank you again for your leadership and for recognizing that safe transportation is critical for public health, our economy and our communities. With your help, we can work to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety and continue to promote the growth of active transportation within our communities.

Sincerely,

American Public Health Association
Trust for America's Health
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