



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 6, 2014

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Senators Push for Dedicated Funding for Bicyclist and Pedestrian Safety, Infrastructure

ALBANY – A group of 20 Senators are requesting \$20 million in dedicated funding for bicycle and pedestrian safety and infrastructure to be included in SFY 2014-15 and beyond. The Senators have signed on to a letter circulated by Senator Martin Malavé Dilan (D-18) which asks for Senate leadership to include the funding in the chamber’s one-house, budget bill. Senator Dilan’s letter recognizes that access to active transportation is essential for all New Yorkers, and dedicated funding for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure represents an investment in safety, quality of life, community health, and business vitality for downtown business districts. A similar letter is currently circulating in the Assembly.

New Yorkers for Active Transportation, a coalition of individuals, nonprofits and local governments coordinated by, Parks & Trails New York (PTNY), Tri-State Transportation Campaign (TSTC), and the New York Bicycling Coalition (NYBC) has been urging lawmakers to add the funding to this year’s state budget.

The push for dedicated bicycle and pedestrian funding comes as a response to reductions in federal and state funding for active transportation projects, as well as high levels of roadway fatalities among non-motorized users. The current federal transportation law, MAP-21, cut New York's dedicated federal dollars for bicycle and pedestrian projects by about \$12 million a year. While advocates were pleased with NYSDOT’s February announcement of \$50 million in new Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding, it represents 30% fewer dollars than the state had available for bicycle, pedestrian, and safe-routes-to-school programs in the past. A recent analysis of the State Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) also showed that NYSDOT plans to spend less money on bike/ped projects than they spent before passage of the Complete Streets Law – at least \$20 million less annually. Moreover, safety issues and accidents involving pedestrians and cyclists continue to plague communities around the state. In 2012, New York State ranked worst in the nation for pedestrian and bicycling safety – 27% of the fatalities on New York roads were pedestrians and bicyclists.

“We thank Senator Dilan and his colleagues in the Senate and Assembly for their leadership in addressing this funding gap in this year’s state budget. Local leaders are eager to build trails, bike lanes, and sidewalks because that is what their constituents tell them they want. We must ensure that all communities have access to sufficient resources to fund these projects so persons of all ages and abilities can safely walk and bike in New York State,” said Parks & Trails New York Director of Programs and Policy Fran Gotcsik.

Access the letter [here](#).

Parks & Trails New York is the state's leading advocate for parks and trails, working since 1985 to expand, protect and promote a network of parks, trails and open spaces throughout the state for use and enjoyment by all. Learn more at www.ptny.org.

Tri-State Transportation Campaign (TSTC) is a policy and advocacy organization working for a more sustainable transportation system in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Learn more at www.tstc.org.

New Yorkers for Active Transportation (NY4AT) is a coalition of individuals, nonprofits and local governments coordinated by New York Bicycling Coalition (NYBC), Parks & Trails New York (PTNY), and Tri-State Transportation Campaign (TSTC). NY4AT seeks equitable funding for non-motorized transportation, including complete streets, community multi-use trails, and safer and increased levels of bicycling and walking in New York's cities, villages, and towns. Learn more at www.ptny.org/advocacy/ny4at.shtml.

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