

DIY COMPLETE STREETS ADVOCACY

NY4AT – *Fighting for a Fair Share for Active Transportation*

New Yorkers for Active Transportation (NY4AT) is a coalition fighting for increased funding for Complete Streets infrastructure and policies that will encourage walking and biking. We believe that all New Yorkers should have safe, nearby access to these facilities – including sidewalks, bike lanes, and multi-use trails. NY4AT is asking legislators for \$20 million annually in dedicated state funding for Complete Streets projects.

This sheet provides how-to information so that you can advocate for increased funding for Complete Streets with your state legislators. All of the materials referenced here are available for download at www.ptny.org/ny4at, as is a FIND YOUR LEGISLATOR tool.

1. Set up a face-to-face meeting with your legislator

Scheduling a face-to-face meeting with your legislator is an effective way of advocating for Complete Streets funding. If you can't meet directly with your legislator, meeting with a Chief of Staff or district manager can also be effective.

2. Review and use the NY4AT materials

Go to www.ptny.org/ny4at and review the advocacy materials that NY4AT has prepared.

These include:

- DEDICATED FUNDING ONE PAGER
- CO-BENEFITS OF BIKING AND WALKING
- BUDGET ASKS documents

You should bring one copy of these documents to your meeting for yourself, and another copy to leave with your legislator.

3. Share your story

Use the STORY FORM to let your legislators know why you want more funding for biking and walking. Your story should be personal, but it should also describe how biking and walking benefit your community. Making connections from your personal story to one of more of the issues listed in the CO-BENEFITS OF BIKING AND WALKING document – economic development, environment, health, and tourism – will make your story even more relevant.

You should also mention local biking or walking projects that have been funded or are in need of funding, and explain their impact or potential impact. If you have a picture to paste into the document in place of the current generic image, please do so.

LOBBYING TIPS

- *Groups are great* – Small groups are a great way to show that your issue has broad appeal.
- *Credential yourself* – Introduce yourself at the beginning of the meeting, mention group and community affiliations, and make sure to mention NY4AT.
- *Keep it short, focused, and positive* – Don't lose your temper or engage in extended argument. Our role is to present the position and ask for commitments of support.
- *Ask for something* – Ask for a specific action by the legislator (e.g., voting for or cosponsoring a bill). Legislators tend to speak generally, but try to get specific answers to specific questions.