



rails-to-trails
conservancy

Is the Sky Falling: An Update on the Transportation Debate in Congress

*New Partners for
Smart Growth
February, 2012*



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Director, Western Region*

Key Federal Programs for Bikeable, Walkable Communities

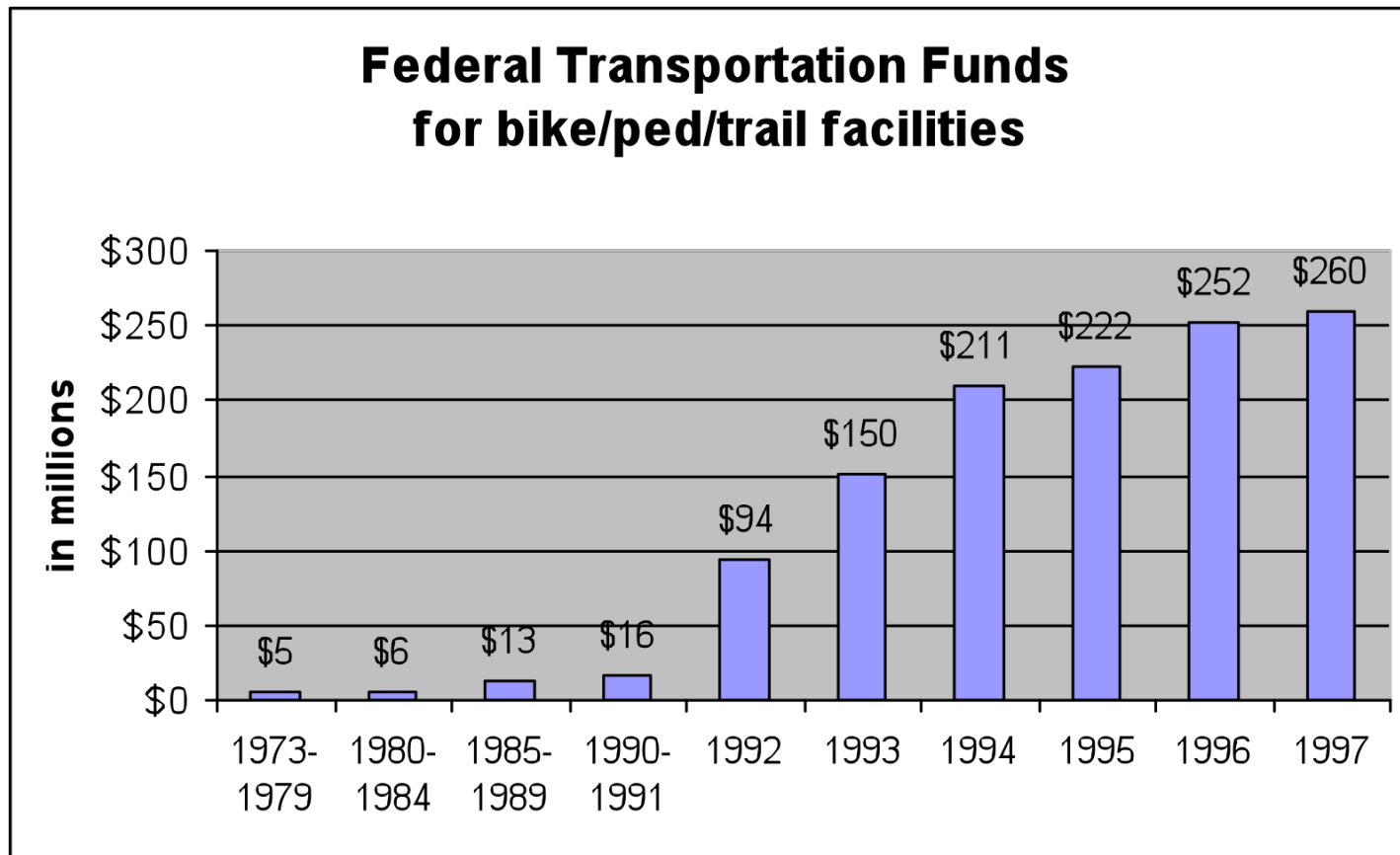


**Transportation
Enhancements**

Safe Routes to School

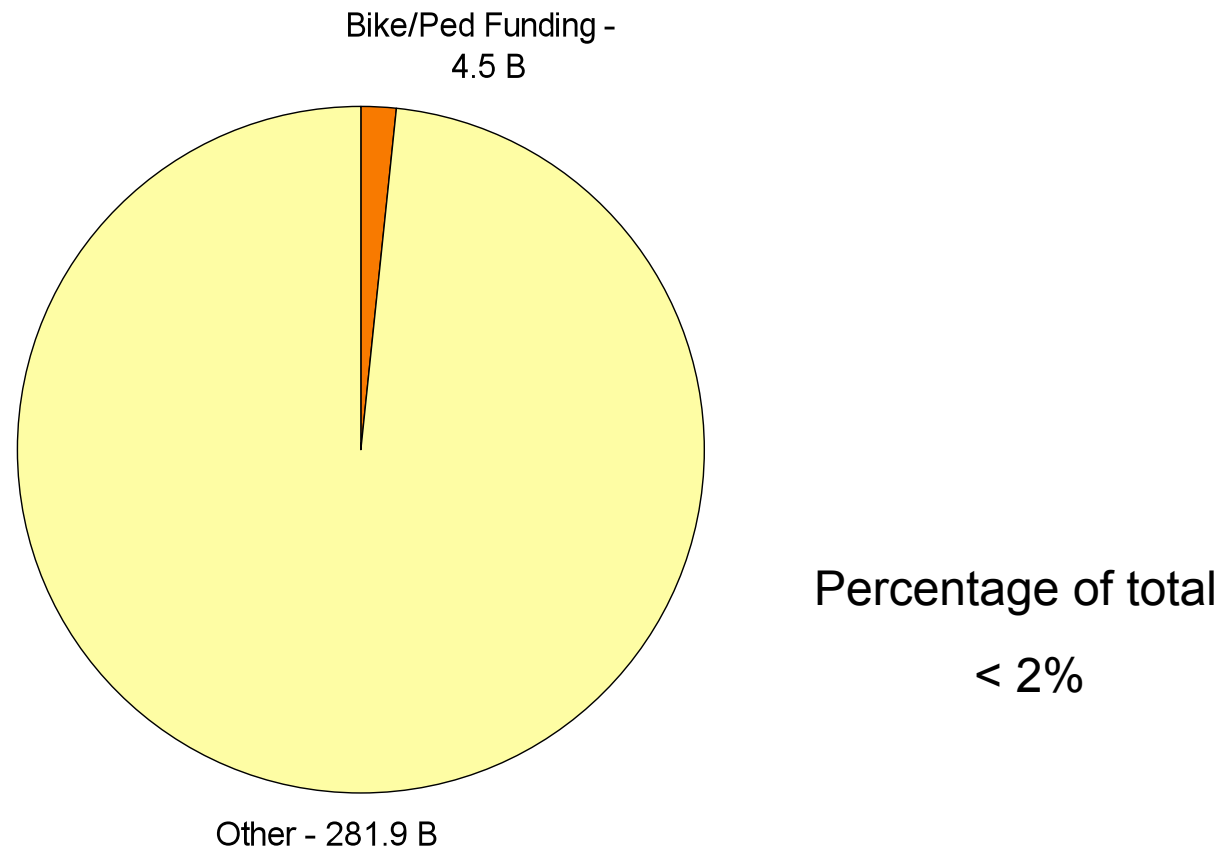
**Recreational Trails
Program**

Optional Bike/Ped Funding Not Successful




SAFETEA-LU

Fair Share?



Programs are Working

- **Bicycling & walking rates increasing: 40% increase in bicycling nationally 2000-2009**
 - **Sidewalks and paths reduce injuries and fatalities**
 - **Kids who walk/bike to school are less obese, more likely to meet physical activity guidelines**
 - **SR2S programs reduce school busing costs, ease traffic congestion at schools, lower medical costs**
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Senate Bill: MAP-21

- Combines 3 core programs under “Additional Activities”
- Adds expensive new eligibilities to compete for less money
- Provides opt-out to transfer funds elsewhere



House Bill: American Energy & Infrastructure Jobs Act



- Eliminates dedicated funding for TE & removes some categories, including rail-trail
- Eliminates SR2S
- Rec Trails program intact
- Eliminates \$ for State DOT bike/ped coordinators

Get Involved – Improve the Bill

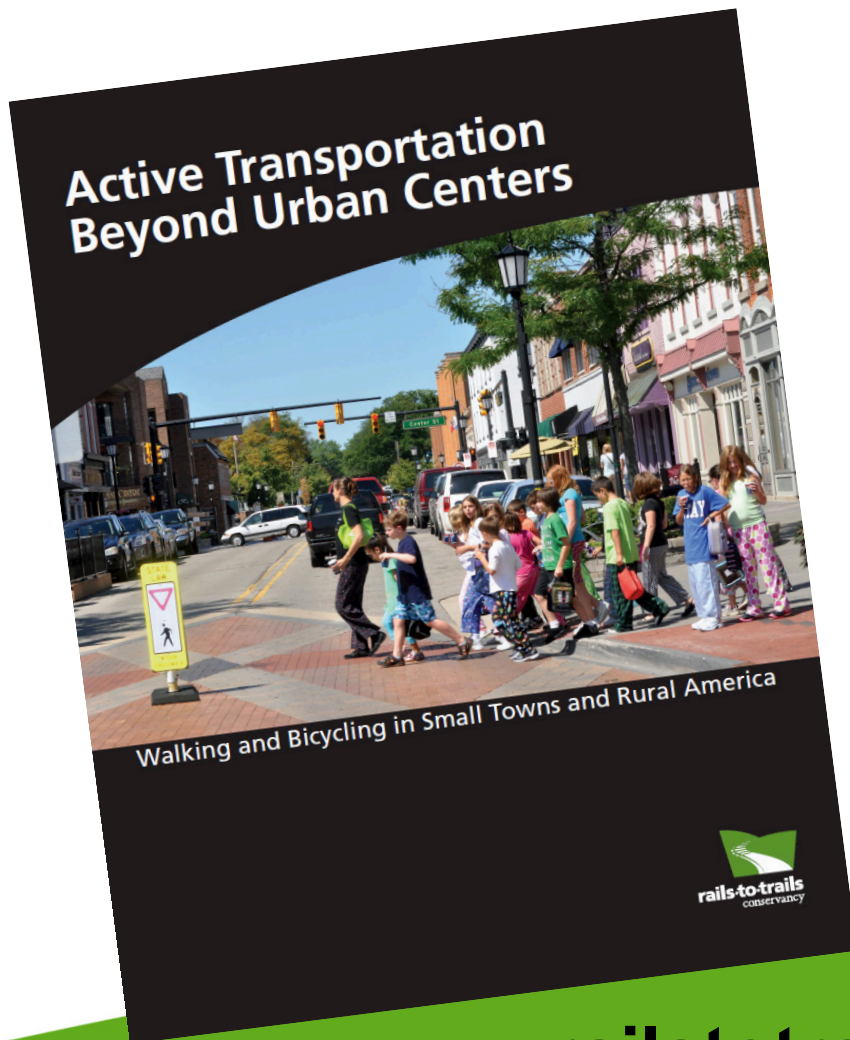
Petri-Johnson Amendment:



- Restores SR2S and TE funding to 2012 levels
- Restores TE category for rail-trails
- Restores funding for 2 State coordinators

More info on our home page: www.railstotrails.org/

Beyond Urban Centers



- New report on active transportation in rural America
- Share of work trips by bike in small towns is nearly double that of urban centers
- Includes dynamic, interactive online tool

railstotrails.org/beyondurbancenters

Contact Us

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