The Honorable Carl E. Heastie  
Speaker  
NYS Assembly  
Legislative Office Building, Room 932  
Albany, NY 12248  

February 12, 2016  

Re: Funding for Pedestrian/Bicycling Infrastructure  

Dear Speaker Heastie,  

New York State is considered to be among the nation’s most dangerous places to bike and walk, with 29% of those dying on our roads being someone who is either biking or walking to their destination. Moreover, motor-vehicle transportation accounts for the single largest share of our State’s greenhouse gas emissions. In the context of the State’s larger, more high-profile transportation infrastructure needs, the importance of projects that make it safer and more accessible to ride a bike, walk and take transit get lost. Amidst the recent calls for funding parity between transit, roads and bridges, those who walk or bike to their destinations are often left out of the conversation.  

We are requesting that within the $22.1 billion proposed for the NYSDOT Capital Plan, a minimum of $20 million be included in increased spending, each year for the five years of the Plan, to supplement the federal dedicated dollars for pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure (formerly known as the Transportation Alternatives Program).  

The two most recent federal transportation laws (MAP-21 and the FAST Act) have dedicated money to bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, but over the years, these funds have been reduced by approximately 30%. These declining resources inhibit the ability to implement the NYS Complete Streets law. By making an additional $20 million annual investment in bicycling and walking infrastructure, we will improve safety, help stimulate local economies, address challenges posed by climate change, and give New Yorkers access to healthy, low-cost transportation options to improve quality of life for the residents of our state. To better implement the spirit and letter of the Complete Streets law enacted in 2011, we also recommend the budget include language for the NYSDOT Capital Plan that prioritizes funding of projects that incorporate pedestrian, bicycling, and transit components.  

As New York State makes significant overall investments in our transportation system, we urge building a national model for a multi-modal transportation system that improves the health, safety, environment, local economies, and overall quality of life for all New Yorkers.  

Sincerely,  

[Signature]
Additional Signers:

Assemblymember Michael P. Kearns
Assemblymember Thomas J. Abinanti
Assemblymember Rebecca A. Seawright
Assemblymember Bill Nojay
Assemblymember Angelo Santabarbara
Assemblymember Amy Paulin
Assemblymember Michelle Schimel
Assemblymember Annette Robinson