Dear Governor Newsom, Legislators and Committee Chairs,

The undersigned support a $2 Billion augmentation to invest in active transportation infrastructure and programs out of the General Fund, primarily to the Active Transportation Program. We recommend that at least the first $500 million of these funds be allocated to an augmentation of Cycle 5 of the Active Transportation Program (ATP), as proposed in the 2021 Transportation Package, in order to do right by the agencies who had been given strong indications that their applications scoring 86 and above would be funded, only to have their hopes dashed.

The Active Transportation Program has been oversubscribed since its creation, but the situation has grown particularly acute in the last two cycles. We believe that the program should have enough resources in every cycle to support the funding of all applications receiving a score of at least 80 out of 100. We have also consistently advocated for realigning state transportation dollars from other programs that are less consistent with the state’s climate and mode-shift goals in order to achieve that sustainability.
We wish to emphasize that the ATP is not the only statewide program capable of funding walking and biking infrastructure, and considering the sharp rise in collisions involving pedestrians and cyclists in recent years, other programs such as the Highway Safety Improvement Program should receive a boost in funding for projects benefiting non-motorized users.

Finally, we reiterate that all proposals for an augmentation of the ATP this year, including ours, are no substitute for the long-term funding needed to put the program on more stable financial footing and align the state’s transportation investments with its stated goals for slashing greenhouse gas emissions by reducing vehicle miles traveled. The program must be at least doubled from its current size in order to consistently support the best applications received every cycle. Therefore, we will remain active in working with legislators and agencies to identify the most equitable realignment of our transportation spending to ensure substantial and measurable progress toward the state’s climate and equity goals, as outlined in the Governor’s Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI).

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