



August 27, 2012

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie  
PO Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

New Jersey Department of Transportation Commissioner James Simpson  
1035 Parkway Avenue  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Re: Federal Funding for Bicycling Improvements

Dear Governor Christie and Commissioner Simpson,

The Princeton Free Wheelers is a not-for-profit bicycle club with over 900 members, dedicated to providing opportunities for recreational bicycling.

We are writing regarding the new federal transportation bill, called MAP-21, in which states have flexibility in the use of funds. We strongly urge you to utilize all MAP-21 funding programs – including HSIP, CMAQ, and STP - to include biking in all transportation projects.

Many of our favorite bicycling roads are quiet country lanes, and many bicyclists would like to ride to the starting point, but drive their car instead, because of insufficient accommodations on busy roads between home and the ride. NJ DOT's Complete Streets policy will address these accommodations over time on state and federal roads, but the vast majority of roads fall under county and municipal responsibility, where policies vary widely. We urge you to consider strengthening the implementation of the Complete Streets policy to include bicycling in all federally funded projects in the state.

New Jersey's tourism industry is important to our continued prosperity. NJ DOT recognizes and supports bicycle tourism, for example by creating guides to tourist destinations, such as the *North Shore and More* guide, which includes the Henry Hudson trail between Keyport and Sandy Hook. We recognize the important role trails play in providing a place for bicyclists to improve their skills until they are ready to try road biking, and support continued federal funding to create a network of trails for recreation and transportation.

By making full use of our federal transportation funding, New Jersey will benefit from more recreational bicycling, as well as becoming a better place to live and work. Bicycling is not only fun and healthy for the bicyclist; it creates less pollution and congestion for everyone. More needs to be done - please make biking investments a top priority.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Van Hise  
President,  
On behalf of the Princeton Free Wheelers