August 27, 2012

To: New Jersey Governor Chris Christie
    New Jersey Department of Transportation Commissioner James Simpson

Re: Federal and State Funding for Bicycling and Pedestrian Projects

The West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization of about 400 members, dedicated to creating a bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly community.

New Jersey’s continued economic development strongly depends on becoming the most livable state, to attract skilled professionals to live and locate their businesses here. As the most densely populated state, we must look beyond roadway expansion to implement an efficient multi-modal infrastructure that is fast, convenient and inexpensive.

Biking and walking is key to increasing livability and transportation efficiency. Those who bike or walk not only have fun and stay healthier, those who bike or walk to work or school reduce congestion and pollution for the entire community.

With relatively modest investments by infrastructure standards, biking and walking, especially to and from transit, can provide a viable alternative to driving a car. The return on these investments will save New Jerseyans over $8,000 per year per car. No other investment can have such a positive impact, and few other states can capitalize on this opportunity as easily, giving New Jersey a competitive advantage for years to come.

Under the new federal transportation bill, called MAP-21, 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 and walking in all transportation projects.

West Windsor Township, New Jersey’s first Bicycle Friendly Community, has been fortunate to enjoy the benefits of federal funds, for example by building sidewalks near the Princeton Junction train station under a Safe Routes to Transit grant. More needs to be done – please make biking and walking investments a top priority.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Foster
President