

**Parks and Recreation Commission
Staff Report**

Meeting Date: February 21, 2012

Agenda Item Number: 4D

Applicant: Roger Moellendorf, Director

Request: For possible action: to determine a possible course of action and recommendation regarding the House of Representatives' "American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act" transportation bill.

General Discussion:

Commissioner Donna Curtis has asked that this item be placed on the agenda. Attached, as "Exhibit A," is explanation of the "American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act" transportation bill from the League of American Bicyclists. The following is an explanation from Patrick Pittenger, Transportation Manager of the probable effects of the House Bill on Carson City:

"The current proposals in both the House and Senate for Federal transportation reauthorization include provisions which would negatively impact funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects. The impacts would be nationwide, but would vary by location. In the case of smaller urbanized areas like Carson City, the impacts could be dramatic."

"The proposals are all based on the premise of consolidation and simplification. The idea that the Federal programs would be consolidated, with the Enhancement and Safe Route to Schools program no longer existing. The proponents of this say that most activities currently eligible for Enhancement funds would be eligible for Federal funds, but it would no longer be a requirement, but optional for each state. The Nevada Department of Transportation would not be obligated to continue to fund pedestrian projects. The Enhancement and Safe Route to Schools eligible activities would be eligible to continue to be funded through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program, but only for urbanized areas with populations over 200,000 and/or with significant air quality issues are eligible for those funds. Since the Carson City area does not meet either of those criteria, it would not be eligible to pursue those types of projects."

The range of possible actions taken by the Parks and Recreation Commission is extensive and varied; therefore staff has not listed a recommended action. The range could be from, no action, to personally contacting your representatives, to making a recommendation to either RTC, CAMPO or the Board of Supervisors to either oppose or support this bill.

Recommended Action:

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ACTION ALERT

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House Bill Reverses Decades of Progress on Bike/Ped

It's so much worse than we thought

Today, the House released its transportation bill, the American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act. We expected the bill to be bad news for biking and walking, but we didn't think it would go so far as to **reverse all the progress we have made in the past twenty years.**

Take action now—tell your representative to preserve biking and walking in the Transportation Committee.

House leadership is exerting pressure to completely cut bicycling and walking out of transportation. Lawmakers seem to have gone through line-by-line to gut programs that make streets safer. The outrageous American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act:

- o Destroys Transportation Enhancements by making the program optional
- o Repeals the Safe Routes to School program, reversing years of progress in creating safe ways for kids to walk and ride bicycles to school
- o Allows states to build bridges without safe access for pedestrians and bicycles
- o Eliminates bicycle and pedestrian coordinators in state DOTs

But there's still a chance to save biking and walking. This week, Representatives Petri (R-WI) and Johnson (R-IL) plan to stand up to leadership by offering an amendment that restores dedicated funding for Transportation Enhancements and Safe Routes to School.

Representative Petri and Johnson can only be successful if everyone with a stake in safe sidewalks, crosswalks, and bikeways contacts their Congressional Member today.

This is as urgent as it gets. If members of the Transportation Committee are going to stand up to House leadership by supporting biking and walking, they will need to know their constituents are behind them. Please contact Congress today and ask them to preserve dedicated funding for biking and walking.

Thank you for all you're doing to preserve biking and walking.

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