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PRESS RELEASE

Biking and Walking Equal Modes of Transportation

Washington, DC (3/23/10) – America Bikes cheers Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood’s announcement that bicycling will be treated as an equal mode of transportation. He announced DOT is integrating the needs of bicyclists in federally-funded road projects by discouraging transportation investments that negatively affect cyclists and pedestrians and encouraging innovative design to make streets safer and more accessible to all users.

LaHood announced the policy in his blog, stating, “People across America who value bicycling should have a voice when it comes to transportation planning. This is the end of favoring motorized transportation at the expense of non-motorized.”

America Bikes applauds Secretary LaHood, the Department of Transportation and the Obama Administration,” says America Bikes President, Randy Neufeld, “ We are ready to work side by side with the Secretary to achieve his vision of a Bike Friendly America.”

“What a difference a year makes,” says Andy Clarke President of the League of American Bicyclists, “We are glad to have an administration that recognizes that 50 percent of all trips Americans take are under 3 miles, and that biking and walking can help address national problems such as congestion, health and environment.”

“This is a great first step,” says Jeff Miller, President/CEO of Alliance for Biking & Walking, “We’re looking forward to see how local and State DOT’s will implement that ground breaking new policy.”

This transformational policy directs DOT to do the following:

- Considering walking and bicycling as equals with other transportation modes
- Ensuring that there are transportation choices for people of all ages and abilities, especially children
- Going beyond minimum design standards:
- Integrating bicycle and pedestrian accommodation on new, rehabilitated, and limited-access bridges:
- Collecting data on walking and biking trips
- Removing snow from sidewalks and shared-use paths
- Improving nonmotorized facilities during maintenance projects

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About America Bikes

America Bikes is a coalition of national bicycling organizations advocating for positive outcomes for bicycling in the federal transportation bill. America Bikes

Coalition members include: Adventure Cycling Association, Alliance for Biking and Walking, Association of Pedestrian and Bicycling Professionals, Bikes Belong, International Mountain Bicycling Association, League of American Bicyclists, National Center for Bicycling and Walking, and the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.

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