

May 6, 2022

Members of the State Government and Transportation Conference Committee,

I write to express support of the full allocation for active transportation in the Omnibus State Government Finance bill (HF 4293/SF 3975) which would dedicate \$12.5 million dollars to augment the program. The City of St. Louis Park is a leader on connected transportation for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Our strategic priorities which support active transportation are also fundamental to our commitment to reduce carbon use citywide. In 2018, the St. Louis Park City Council passed a Climate Action Plan with the ambitious goal of achieving carbon neutrality, having a net zero carbon footprint, by 2040. The plan further establishes midterm goals that will reduce the city's overall carbon emissions by 55% by 2030.

Making progress toward cleaner air, less traffic and noise, and more livable neighborhoods by providing convenient and safe ways to use low-carbon and no-carbon travel methods is one of our primary goals as a city. We work to:

- Consider pedestrians, bicyclists and transit first, then vehicles, when designing projects.
- Build a complete system of pedestrian and bicycle routes throughout the city to connect users to common destinations.
- Remove or reduce barriers to using the pedestrian and bicycle system.
- Install directional signs throughout the city so pedestrians and bicyclists can easily find their way to common destinations.
- Make low-carbon and no-carbon travel methods an easy option to access public transit and as an alternative to shorter vehicle trips.

We work to contribute to equitable outcomes for all people by providing access for all residents to pedestrian and bicycle connections to common destinations. We design the system to be user-friendly for all ages and abilities and work to be mindful of racial inequities in the existing pedestrian and bicycle system and work to address those inequities when designing projects.

Active transportation also improves overall health and wellbeing of the community by reducing fatalities and serious injuries resulting from vehicle crashes on city streets. We should build a system that allows everyone to feel safe and accepted in every area of the city and create a system that allows everyone the option to use physical activity safely, to reach common destinations, and to connect with nature.

This funding would help to advance these efforts significantly and is a needed resource for us to accomplish these goals. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration. If you have questions, feel free to contact me at jspano@stlouispark.org or 952.928.1448.

Sincerely,



Jake Spano
Mayor, City of St. Louis Park