



LEE COUNTY
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

John E. Manning
District One

Brian Bigelow
District Two

Ray Judah
District Three

Tammy Hall
District Four

Frank Mann
District Five

Karen B. Hawes
County Manager

Michael D. Hunt
County Attorney

Diana M. Parker
County Hearing Examiner

Subject: Please support the Cardin-Cochran Amendment

Dear Senator Nelson,

As the Chairman of the Lee County Board of County Commissioners, I am writing to you to urge support of the Cardin-Cochran amendment to give local elected officials and communities a voice in transportation decisions to build the sidewalks, crosswalks, and bikeways that keep people safe.

As written, the Senate's transportation bill devolves federal funds to the state level, allowing state DOTs to opt-out of the walking and biking programs that have been popular and successful with local governments. The Cardin-Cochran Amendment works to further direct a small portion of those funds to local governments, whose leaders know the transportation needs of their constituent's best.

Under MAP-21, funding programs for bicycling and walking are combined into one program called "Additional Activities" with an expanded list of eligible activities and a much smaller fund. The Cardin-Cochran Amendment adds access for local governments to the "Additional Activities" funds in CMAQ, without changing eligibility of projects or funding levels of the "Additional Activities."

The Cardin-Cochran amendment does the following:

- **Protects local control** by ensuring that cities and counties have a voice in how states spend transportation dollars for safer streets.
- **Fosters competition for safer streets** by opening the "Additional Activities" fund to a grant program for local governments.
- **Protects state flexibility.** If no local governments apply for funding, funds revert to the state DOTs.

Walking and biking infrastructure is cheaper to construct, creates more jobs per dollar than any other kind of highway spending, and encourages healthy communities by giving people safe ways to get around on foot and by bicycle.

My colleagues and I are strongly supportive of a more balanced multi-modal transportation system and one that ensures that our roads are safe and accessible for all road users. Senate adoption of the Cardin-Cochran Amendment is critical to our ability to provide the kind of transportation system needed and desired by the citizens of Lee County.

We urge you to support the Cardin-Cochran Amendment to give local governments an opportunity to make streets safer in Florida and across the country.

Sincerely,

John Manning, Chairman
Lee County Board of County Commissioners

JM/ng