



August 18, 2010

Governor Charlie Crist  
State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Crist:

BikeWalkLee, a coalition working to complete Lee County's streets, urges you not to cut funding for programs that support biking and walking as you decide how to distribute the recent congressional rescission of \$112.6 million from Florida's federal transportation funds. Last year, there was a similar federal rescission of unobligated balances and Florida took the bulk of the cut from two programs, Transportation Enhancements and the Recreational Trails program — the programs that fund projects to make our roadways safer for walkers and cyclists. Almost \$25 million was taken out of the TE program — twice the "fair share" amount recommended by U.S. DOT. The Recreational Trails program was cut \$1.6 million—triple the "fair share" amount.

On Nov. 20, 2009, we wrote you asking for action to address Florida's shameful standing as the most dangerous state in the country for pedestrians and cyclists, and cited the way Florida DOT had taken the 2009 rescission as evidence of the state's lack of commitment to the safety of walkers and cyclists. We specifically asked that the way you handled the rescission in 2009 never happen again.

Just this week, Florida DOT is holding a statewide summit on the 2060 Transportation Plan and the next 5-year Strategic Safety Plan. Advocates for a more balanced transportation system and more emphasis on improving the safety for all road users -- especially those most vulnerable (pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcyclists) -- will be making their voices heard. While it is encouraging to see Florida DOT request public input, that effort will be viewed as a farce if our state leaders turn around and again approve disproportionate cuts in the programs that support biking and walking.

The allocation of funds is the true test of the state's priorities, and your decision about how to apply this rescission will tell citizens of Florida what priority walkers and cyclists have when it comes to our roadways. Florida only spends 1.5% of its federal transportation dollars on walking and bicycling, or \$1.41 per person. This paltry investment should be increased, not decreased. Every community in Florida has a long list of bicycle/pedestrian projects awaiting funding. In Lee County alone, more than \$50 million in projects have been identified.

We urge you to take the rescission proportionately, making cuts equitably across all programs rather than disproportionately cutting funding for transportation enhancements, recreational trails, and bicycle and pedestrian projects. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Darla Letourneau

On behalf of

**BikeWalkLee**

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cc: Lt. Gov. Jeff Kottkamp  
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