

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 19, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

The Honorable Sean McMaster
Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy and Administrator McMaster,

We write today to urge you to reverse the Department of Transportation's (DOT) recent actions that limit people's ability to travel safely and efficiently in their communities. Specifically, we request that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) restore all Proven Safety Countermeasures (PSCM) that were recently removed from the Administration's website and provide us with a written response to explain the Administration's rationale and process for these actions. These countermeasures are backed by extensive data and make roads safer and more efficient for everyone.

The U.S. is experiencing a roadway safety crisis, with more than 36,000 people killed on our streets in 2025.¹ One in five traffic deaths is a person walking or biking.² Since 2010, bicyclist fatalities in the U.S. have risen by 87 percent.³ State Departments of Transportation and local governments use FHWA resources, including PSCM, to address vulnerable road user fatalities. Historically, the FHWA has provided not only necessary federal funds to state and local governments to build streets that are safer for all, but also expertise and technical assistance to make sure that projects will save the greatest number of lives.

¹ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, *Traffic Safety Facts: Crash Stats*, DOT HS 813-800 (April 2026).

² Insurance Institute for Highway Safety-Highway Loss Data Institute, *Fatality Facts 2024: State by State* (posted June 2026).

³ Ken McLeod, League of American Bicyclists analysis of U.S. DOT data, accessible at <https://bikeleague.org/another-year-of-devastating-and-preventable-bicyclist-deaths/>.

The FHWA first created the PSCM in 2008.⁴ The complete set of countermeasures have been rigorously tested and backed by research to justify the FHWA's endorsement.⁵ Bike lanes have been included as a PSCM because there is data to show that they cut traffic crashes by up to 53 percent.⁶ Bike lanes improve safety not only for bicyclists, but also for pedestrians, drivers, and passengers. Federal and local data show that bike lanes improve travel time, reduce congestion, increase access for people with mobility challenges, and improve economic opportunity.⁷ Despite the robust evidence base supporting these safety interventions, in July we received multiple reports of FHWA removing specific PSCM pages from its website.⁸

The removal of several PSCM related to protecting vulnerable road users coincides with the USDOT's recent cancellation of grants that include bicycling facilities and stated intention to limit funding for bike lanes within the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program.⁹ Ignoring multimodal transportation networks, rejecting projects that prioritize the safety of people biking and walking, and eliminating funding for bike lanes goes against the express congressional intent for these funding sources. Furthermore, DOT's actions only make our roads less safe for American families. Millions of Americans rely on bike lanes: workers commuting to their job, children riding to school, families going for a bike ride with their kids, or people simply exercising their right to choose their method of transportation. Biking and walking provide every person with a low-cost and accessible way to get around their town or city while also producing extensive health benefits.¹⁰

We therefore strongly urge you to restore all PSCM pages recently removed from the FHWA website, as well as funding eligibility for bike projects within BUILD and any other grant program for which they are eligible. Please provide us with a written response to explain the Administration's rationale, your process for these actions, and how these actions

⁴ FHWA, "About the Proven Safety Countermeasures Initiative," accessible at <https://highways.dot.gov/safety/proven-safety-countermeasures/about-proven-safety-countermeasures-initiative-psci>.

⁵ Matt Albee and Philip Bobbitz, Federal Highway Administration & VHB, U.S. Department of Transportation, *Making Our Roads Safer: One Countermeasure at a Time*, FHWA-SA-21-071 (October 2021).

⁶ *Id.*, p. 22.

⁷ Rails to Trails Conservancy, *Active Transportation Transforms America Report* (October 15, 2019).

⁸ Joel Rose, NPR, *Bike lanes and speed cameras disappear from the DOT's list of proven safety measures* (July 16, 2026).

⁹ Edith Olmsted, The New Republic, *Trump Secretary Says Bike Lanes Are DEI* (July 8, 2026).

¹⁰ "Almost a quarter of adults report that they do not engage in any physical activity outside of their jobs, and sedentary lifestyles are an important reason that two-thirds of U.S. adults are overweight or obese. By improving bicycle and pedestrian facilities, transportation agencies create opportunities for people to exercise recreationally and build exercise into their daily routine by bicycling or walking to work, shops, and services." U.S. Department of Transportation, *Active Transportation and Health* (updated May 13, 2026).

support the Department's mission to "Advance safety."¹¹ Restoration of these critical resources is a necessary first step towards keeping American families safe on our roads.

Sincerely,



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress

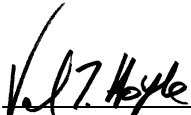


Dina Titus
Member of Congress

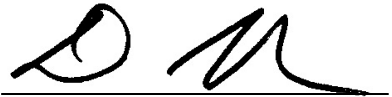


Ed Case
Member of Congress

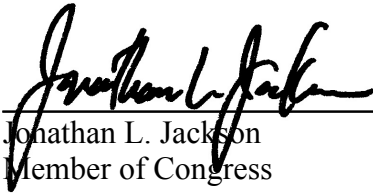
¹¹ U.S. Department of Transportation, "Mission," accessible at <https://www.transportation.gov/mission/about-dot>.



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



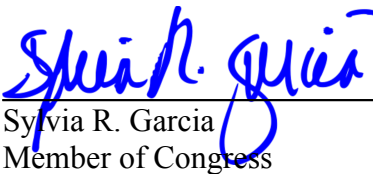
Dave Min
Member of Congress



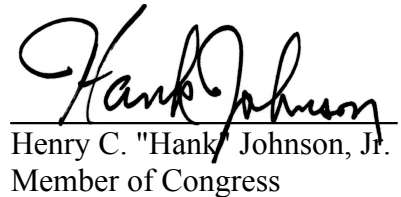
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



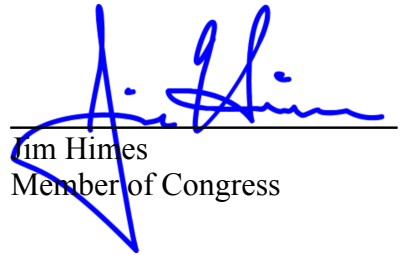
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



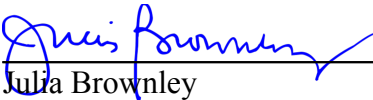
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



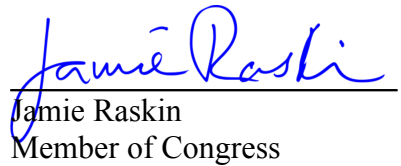
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



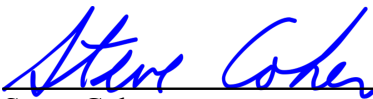
Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



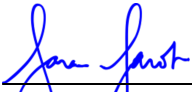
Maxine Dexter, M.D.
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress