

**Subject: Alert - Bike/Ped Funding**

**Date:** Monday, February 10, 2003 3:58 PM

**From:** VT Bicycle/Pedestrian Coalition <becka@VTBikePed.org>

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**Action Alert**  
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Please call your town or city officials tonight (Mon 2/10) or tomorrow about speaking up for Bike/Ped funding at a special meeting in Montpelier on Wednesday (2/12).

This is a day for municipalities to connect with the Legislature.

Here's the deal:

The Agency of Transportation has proposed a moratorium on two pots of bike/ped funding, the Enhancements Program and the Bike/Ped Program. These programs typically fund LOCAL bike/ped projects including sidewalks, multi-use trails, and rail trails.

Here's what you can do:

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1) If you don't already know, look to see if your town has a current application before the state, or if your town has received Enhancements or Bike/Ped funding in the past.

Here's places to look:

a) List of Enhancements projects that have been applied for but not awarded. See attached list in MS Excel. If you can't read Excel, it will soon appear on our website (if it's not up there when you first look, check back).  
<http://www.vtbikeped.org>

b) List of past Enhancements projects  
<http://www.enhancements.org/perm.html>

c) I do not have an electronic list of Bike/Ped Program projects - but your town may know about this if they have applied. If your town has recently been through a feasibility process, the moratorium will mean that there will not be any construction funds available at the end of the feasibility process.

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2) Determine who in your local bike/ped community has the best connection to your elected officials. Have that person or persons call.

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3) Connect with your town officials. Are they planning to attend the Vermont League of Cities & Towns Statehouse day on Wednesday? This is a full day in Montpelier, only part of the time will focus on transportation.  
(Transportation will be 10:30 am -12 noon)

If there's a Bike/Ped or Enhancements project in your community, bring it to their attention, and ask whether they know that the

funding has been cut. Encourage them to let the legislature, Agency of Transportation, and Governor know about the importance of that project (either past or planned), and the need for continued funding to the program.

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4) The messages we want to get out, with whatever local spin your town wants to put on it:

- + this is a very popular local program
- + citizens want this program, and the municipalities like it
- + these programs have support in Vermont as part of a balanced transportation mix
- + these programs are important to families, school kids (sidewalks & paths to schools), elderly
- + bike/ped projects contribute to walkable (shop-able) downtowns, and tourism economic development in the form of multi-use trails.
- + bike/ped projects support a healthy community by encouraging physical fitness through walking and bicycling.

Please let me know what happens.

Thanks,

Becka

PS. We're especially hopeful that some towns other than Chittenden Co. will speak up. These are statewide programs.

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To ask to be added to or removed from our announcements email list, please email [becka@VTBikePed.org](mailto:becka@VTBikePed.org) - Thank you!

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The Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition is a member-supported organization. Please join, and share the word!  
For more info and membership forms: [www.VTBikePed.org](http://www.VTBikePed.org)