



The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
2427 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
2427 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, House Minority Leader McCarthy, Chairman Neal, Ranking Member Brady, Chairman DeFazio, and Ranking Member Graves,

On behalf of the North American Bikeshare Association and its members, we thank you for your consideration to enact the Bicycle Commuter Act of 2019 in the upcoming Transportation and Infrastructure Reauthorization Bill and urge you to include bikeshare in the final policy. Incentivizing commuters to start or continue riding a bike to work will help our country recover from COVID-19 sustainably, and give workers a needed financial break as we ride out the economic uncertainty of the crisis.

As you are aware, the Bicycle Commuter Act of 2019, sponsored by Representative Blumenauer, would extend the Commuter Tax Benefit to bikes, e-bikes, and bikeshare memberships, providing riders with a pre-tax benefit of \$53/month to cover their commuting costs. Just as important, the bill would allow commuters to spend their benefit across modes, meaning they could pay for a bikeshare trip to work, and a transit trip home.

For the last decade, bikeshare has proven to be an environmentally friendly, equitable, and affordable form of transportation, with nearly 50 million rides taking place in 2018

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alone¹. The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted how bikeshare is an essential transportation service. System operators are working with their local governments to support their communities during the COVID-19 crisis. 65% of the bikeshare systems in the United States have remained open as an essential service, offering free and discounted usage for residents and essential personnel, while others dutifully shut down when requested by local officials. Las Vegas' RTC Bike Share program experienced a 97% increase in ridership in April², foreshadowing bikeshare's crucial role in post-COVID recovery.

Many Americans who have experienced bikeshare for the first time during the pandemic will continue to leverage the service as our country approaches normalcy. You have an opportunity to equip them with the tools needed to confidently choose an efficient, sustainable form of transportation for their commute back to work.

Thank you again for considering this essential benefit that impacts millions of Americans on the move. The Bicycle Commuter Act stands to expand upon an already impactful piece of legislation that offers financial relief to Americans. As more Americans choose active commuting, it's crucial that policy supports them and encourages more citizens to do the same.

Sincerely,



Samantha Herr, Executive Director
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¹ [2018 NACTO Snapshot](#)

² [RTC sees spike in bikeshare ridership during COVID-19 pandemic in Las Vegas](#)