

Steven Sepe

From: Chris O'Brien
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 9:32 AM
To: Steven Sepe
Subject: FW: Please add Bicycle Infrastructure funding in the Governor's Budget

From: Sarah Mitchell [mailto:sarahthepark@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 8:58 AM
To: Chris O'Brien <CO'Brien@rilegislature.gov>
Cc: Rep. Barros, Jean P. <rep-Barros@rilegislature.gov>
Subject: Please add Bicycle Infrastructure funding in the Governor's Budget

I am writing today to ask you to allocate funding in the Governor's budget (Governor's Budget Amendment-- Article 5--Capital Development Program) for fixing the gaps in our transportation network.

This pandemic has highlighted the lack of space we have for biking and walking in our transportation infrastructure. Social distancing requirements are hard to uphold when our sidewalks are narrow and our streets lack spaces for people to bike.

A large majority of our citizens do not own cars. And with skyrocketing unemployment, many people are finding themselves in a situation where they can't afford the car they have. Rhode Island's transportation network serves cars well and only cars well. Funding bicycling infrastructure enables access to jobs, education, food, and other opportunities closed to people in our community who do not have access to a car.

There are other benefits to bicycling, including:

- Improved health because bicycling is exercise
- Expanded mobility for populations who can't drive, including the elderly
- Reduced emissions because bicycles do not emit nearly as much pollution as cars (bikes are zero-emission vehicles)
- Safer Streets because separated protected bike lanes reduce speeds and make our roads safer for everyone ([Source](#))

I ask you to support the addition of funding for bicycle infrastructure and help advance Rhode Island's Bike Mobility Plan and build a transportation network Rhode Island needs.

Thank you for supporting biking.

Sarah Mitchell
24 Carver St, Pawtucket, RI

You can find the most recent publicly released version of the Bike Mobility Plan here: <http://www.planri.com/pdf/bmp/RI%20Bicycle%20Mobility%20Plan%20July%202019%20DRAFT.pdf>