NEWS RELEASE

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MILESTONE MEASURE CREATES ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Sacramento, CA, September 27, 2013 – Walking and bicycling infrastructure will receive a 35% boost in dedicated state funding through legislation signed by Governor Jerry Brown yesterday. The measure, Senate Bill 99, restructures existing pedestrian, bicycle, trails, and Safe Routes to School programs into a comprehensive Active Transportation Program, to be administered by the California Transportation Commission.

“California’s new active transportation program demonstrates our strong commitment to bicycling, walking and other human-powered transit,” said Transportation Secretary Brian Kelly. “When Californians have more options for active transportation—including new and safer trails and pedestrian routes—it helps the state achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals while enhancing public health and safety.”

Projects eligible for funding include new bikeways, walkways, trails, parks, safe routes to transit and safe routes to schools.

“Over the coming years, the Active Transportation Program will increase the number of bicycling and walking trips in California, improve safety and mobility, and help achieve greenhouse gas reductions,” said Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez (D-Los Angeles), who was key in passage of the legislation.
The milestone measure is a product of extensive negotiations between the Brown Administration, the Legislature, and California Active Transportation Leadership -- a coalition of statewide non-profits that worked in unison to ensure the legislation addressed critical issues including the preservation of the Recreational Trails Program and dedicated funding for Safe Routes to School projects and programs within the Active Transportation Program framework. The coalition includes the Safe Routes to School National Partnership, California WALKS, California Bicycle Coalition, California ReLeaf, PolicyLink, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, TransForm, California Pan-Ethnic Health Network, The Nature Conservancy, Prevention Institute and Public Health Institute.

One key effort of the coalition, in consultation with equity leaders around the state, resulted in a requirement for at least 25% of the new program funding to flow to disadvantaged communities who stand to benefit the most from active transportation improvements.

The California Transportation Commission will work with stakeholders and regional transportation planning organizations in the coming months to create competitive grant guidelines for the Active Transportation Program at both the state and regional levels. Large metropolitan planning organizations will award 40% of the funds, small urban and rural areas will compete for 10% and all jurisdictions are eligible for the remaining 50% via statewide competition.

For more details about the how the Active Transportation Program will benefit specific sectors, see the statements by the following organizations:

- Bicycling community statement from the [California Bicycle Coalition](http://www.cyclist.org).
- Walking community statement from [California WALKS](http://www.walkocalifornia.org).
- Safe Routes to School statement from the [Safe Routes to School National Partnership](http://www.srtsp.org).
- Trails and multi-use paths statement from [Rails-to-Trails Conservancy](http://www.railstotrails.org).
- Resource conservation statement from [California ReLeaf](http://www.calireleaf.org).

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