

*California WALKS . . . advocating walkable communities for everyone*



July 29, 2011

**P. O. Box 13143  
Berkeley, CA 94712  
510-292-4435  
Fax 510-292-4436  
[www.californiawalks.org](http://www.californiawalks.org)**

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
112 Hart Senate Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for Senator Boxer's EPW Transportation & Infrastructure bill  
Dear Senator Boxer:

California Walks, a statewide advocacy group promoting walkable communities and pedestrian safety, thanks you for your energy and leadership in developing an EPW proposal that keeps funding at current levels (previously authorized by SAFETEA-LU), while adding in an all-important "inflation factor".

We are especially pleased that your proposal includes specific responsiveness to the needs of pedestrians. Too often, transportation forums and legislation take walking for granted.

Yet, the need for pedestrian infrastructure is quite evident and long-neglected. As our 'baby boomer' population now matures into seniors, who eventually must give up driving, the need for safe walking conditions becomes ever more critical to preserving both longevity and independence of older adults.

A.D.A. responsiveness means we still need to construct many curb ramps, provide safe crossings and complete sidewalks, to allow people with disabilities to travel freely with others.

Considering this country's epidemics of obesity, diabetes, and high blood pressure, we need safer sidewalks and trails, so all can take care of routine daily activities by walking (walk to post office and pharmacy, walk to school and work) and easily exercise. Local efforts aren't enough to address these pedestrian needs, especially in low-income and less densely-populated areas.

That's why your final transportation and infrastructure bill can be a great help to funding a multi-modal approach to maintaining and improving our country's transportation infrastructure.

*California WALKS* will post on our website [ [www.californiawalks.org](http://www.californiawalks.org) ] both a link to your bill and also to this letter. And, we will send it out to our listserve and by e-news.

Thanks,

*Bob Planthold*

Bob Planthold,  
Chair, Board of Directors, *California WALKS*

*Wendy Alfsen*

Wendy Alfsen, Executive Director, *California WALKS*

