



Senator Frank Lautenberg  
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[www.trentoncycling.org](http://www.trentoncycling.org)

September 14, 2011

Dear Senator Lautenberg,

Steering Committee

Dave Byers

Mary Helen Cervantes

Helen Dudar

Jaime Ewalt

Dan Fatton, Chair

Jacque Howard

Lisa Kasabach

Jeff Laurenti

Trish Long

Jon Naar

Matt Rawls

Karen Riedeberg

Jim Simon

John S. Watson, Jr.

Alysia Welch-Chester

Abdul Wiswall

Thank you for your continued leadership on bicycle and pedestrian issues. I know you appreciate the need for smart planning and wise investment, which will be critical for improving our economy. There are great examples of cities that have invested in bicycle and pedestrian projects to turn downtowns into destinations. I am writing to tell you about my city in New Jersey, Trenton, and our incredible need for bicycle and pedestrian projects and funding.

According to the American Community Survey of 2005-09, more than 6% of Trentonians commute to work each day by bike or foot, which is notable. I bike to work whenever the weather allows and I consider myself lucky for the luxury. But more than 30% of the city's households do not own a car at all. The road conditions in Trenton are not ideal for bicycling and walking: the bike lane system is fragmented; parks in our community need serious upgrades; and maintenance is spotty at best.

As an involved advocate, I have met with representatives from the Mayor's office, economic development, traffic and planning departments. There is a real interest in additional funding for bikeways, safe streets to transit, and streetscape improvements. Under the leadership of Andrew Carten, former Director of Planning, the City of Trenton formulated some very good plans. These ideas need funding to move forward, to hire engineers, pay for acquiring right-of-way in some instances, and to do simple things, like improving crosswalks for the significant number of pedestrians in our city.

Bicycle and pedestrian improvements can improve the economy of Trenton by making the city safer and more accommodating for tourists, as well as residents. Building bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure creates 46 percent more jobs than building road only projects, per million dollars spent. But these improvements will also help make it easier for Trenton's kids to get active. Nearly 1 in 2 Trenton children is overweight or obese! These transportation enhancement programs are not inconsequential. The importance of their preservation cannot be understated.

I believe funding for programs like Safe Routes to School, and preserved funding for bicycle and pedestrian programs are essential for Trenton to become a bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly city.

Kind Regards,

Dan Fatton

Chair

Trenton Cycling Revolution

*Trenton Cycling Revolution was founded to create a safe and healthy environment for bicyclists in Greater Trenton, through education, advocacy and promotion. We have been concerned with and involved in bicycle and pedestrian planning in Trenton, often working closely with city employees and officials, for over 10 years.*