

Leveraging Bikes to Lower Emissions, Enhance Mobility and Fight the Climate Crisis



people**for**bikes



As the White House and Congress prioritize climate across all sectors, PeopleForBikes' objective within the federal policy ecosystem (government, stakeholders and press) is to position bicycles as a key part of the solution for climate change. In doing so, we will leverage the surface transportation reauthorization bill, fiscal policy and the budget debate, infrastructure, the growing prioritization of climate issues, White House and administration executive and regulatory actions and episodic opportunities to insert bikes.

Below is an overview of our climate messaging, legislative agenda and actions with the administration to position bikes as a policy solution.



PeopleForBikes' Messaging in Washington, D.C.

Our messaging around climate will balance opportunities for bikes with the growing pressure on climate solutions focused on domestically produced products. While bicycles are well positioned as an emissions-reducing solution, we are sensitive to the growing prioritization around an incentive structure that exclusively favors products that are Made in America.

§ **Bikes are part of the solution for climate change** and should be incorporated into any plan to reduce carbon emissions and provide low-cost, clean and scalable alternatives for transportation.

§ Given the urgency to respond to climate change with bold, near-term policies, increasing opportunities to get more people on **bikes would have a substantial and immediate impact on U.S. carbon emissions.**

§ **Transportation is the leading source (28%) of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S., with passenger vehicles being the largest culprit. Research shows that if 15% of car trips were made by electric bicycle, overall carbon emissions would be reduced by 12%.**

§ Bikes are an **accessible mode of transportation and recreation for everyone** and are increasingly used as an alternative to other vehicles.

§ Safe, connected bicycle infrastructure will position America to more closely **align our climate solution policies with other countries that are leading the fight to reduce carbon emissions.**

§ As electrification becomes a top-tier climate policy, **electric bicycles are the most immediate transportation option available that can be developed at scale.**

§ Bikes alone will not solve climate change, but **bikes can and should be a prominent part of any climate policy.**



PeopleForBikes' Legislative Agenda

Our legislative agenda includes a diverse group of policy options that align with our theme of bikes as part of the solution. In doing so, we focus on two core policy areas: (1) dramatically increasing funding for bike infrastructure and (2) increasing access to bikes through incentives that would better align policies for bikes with other modes of transportation.

While these policy solutions may use non-climate messaging platforms elsewhere (i.e., transportation, equity, etc.), positioning bike-specific solutions and bike infrastructure as climate change solutions is an important way to keep bikes as an important part of the debate.



Transportation Alternative Funding Increases

The largest barrier to scaling bikes as a meaningful climate solution is the need to exponentially increase safe and accessible places to ride. Nations that have prioritized an aggressive position to counter climate change have prioritized expanding bike infrastructure and increasing the ability for everyone to use bikes as a transportation alternative with zero carbon emissions. Our request for the Transportation Alternatives Program would double funding in the first year to \$1.6 billion with annual increases beyond that, in addition to significant reforms to streamlining the funding process.

Bicycle Commuter Act

Incentives for commuters to bike to work were removed in the last tax reform package, eliminating an important incentive for people to use bikes to get to work and, ultimately, reducing access to transportation alternatives with zero carbon emissions. The Bicycle Commuter Act would allow people to access pre-tax commuter benefits and create parity with incentives for cars and transit.

Electric Bicycle Incentive Kickstart for the Environment Act (E-BIKE Act)

Electric bikes are increasingly used as a clean and competitive transportation option and are a meaningful part of any effort to reduce carbon emissions within the transportation sector. The E-BIKE Act would provide a tax credit for 30% (up to \$1,500) of the cost for an electric bike. This bill will increase access to electric bicycles, providing more access and affordability for people to shift transportation modes.





The Active Transportation for Public Lands Act

Bicycles need to be an accessible transportation alternative and, therefore, quality bike infrastructure needs to be accessible everywhere. The Active Transportation for Public Lands Act would create a 5% set-aside for active transportation infrastructure within the Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP), which would increase the availability of bike infrastructure and provide more opportunities for people to use transportation options that have zero carbon emissions on public lands. This is important as public land visitation and interest grows across the nation.

Recreational Trails Program Full Funding Act of 2021

As more people turn to bikes as a clean form of recreation, additional infrastructure is needed to make recreation more accessible. The Recreational Trails Program Full Funding Act of 2021 would increase funding for the RTP from \$84 million to \$250 million, providing for more trails for bikes.

Expand Opportunities for Employers to Leverage E-Bikes

Although employers may provide employees with vehicles, incentives do not exist for the purchase of electric bicycles. Therefore, our current incentive structure favors less clean, carbon-emitting modes of transportation. Our request will be to provide an incentive structure that encourages employers to leverage e-bikes as a cleaner alternative when considering transportation options for their employees.

PeopleForBikes' Actions With the Biden-Harris Administration

To ensure bikes remain a credible piece of the climate discussion, barriers need to be removed that limit access to them.

§ **Position Bikes a Climate Solution:** We will be sending letters to the Department of Transportation, Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce and the Council on Environmental Quality highlighting the benefits that bikes offer in combating the climate crisis, the role e-bikes can play in electrification and the need to include bikes within any climate solution strategy.

§ **Position Bikes for Tariff Relief From Section 301 Tariffs on Imports From China:** We are requesting that the U.S. Trade Representative remove Section 301 tariffs on bikes through a new exclusion process or renewal of expired exclusions. Reducing the cost of bikes will increase consumer access and mitigate supply chain issues, providing more opportunities for people to choose emissionless modes of travel.

§ **Encourage an Environmental Goods Agreement:** We are requesting that the U.S. Trade Representative initiate an Environmental Goods Agreement, which could increase imports of bikes without tariffs and provide better access to bikes for everyone.

§ **Support for 30 x 30:** The effort by the administration to preserve 30% of lands by 2030 is an aggressive priority that PeopleForBikes supports. In addition to preserving lands, it would also provide more opportunities for people to ride bikes for transportation and recreation.

