



**New Jersey
Bike & Walk
Coalition**

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NJBWC Executive Director Stresses Active Transportation as a Key Piece to the Transit Puzzle

TRENTON, N.J. (Aug 12, 2015) – New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition Executive Director Cyndi Steiner testified Monday before the New Jersey Senate Legislative Oversight Committee during a hearing intended to identify challenges facing the state’s transit system. In her testimony, Steiner emphasized the integration of biking and walking as a first-mile/last mile solution that provides a cost-effective way to improving New Jersey’s overburdened, cash-strapped mass transportation system both now and in the future.

“Bicycling and walking extend the effectiveness and efficiency of the rail network at very low cost,” said Steiner. “The capital investment of adding bike racks to buses, bike storage to rail cars, and bike parking at transit hubs is a very small percentage of the overall capital cost of these items.”

Equally important is the need to incorporate facilities for biking and walking on New Jersey’s streets to maximize transit connectivity, Steiner testified. “Building out our street infrastructure to accommodate biking and walking increase transit ridership and make the system more efficient in several ways,” said Steiner.

(more...)

Given the trending demographic shifts, integrating active transportation will be vital to ensuring New Jersey's future economic vitality. "Today's millennials, who will be tomorrow's leaders, are choosing to live and work in cities and towns that provide transportation options such as mass transit, walking and biking," said Steiner. "This generation is opting out of the car-centered lifestyle that saw their parents waste away hours per week trapped on congested roads, as NJ crept towards having the nation's longest commutes. Millennials choosing communities that offer these options represent a brain drain for New Jersey if we cannot provide them."

Also addressing the committee alongside Steiner were Tom Wright of the Regional Planning Association, Janna Chernetz of Tri-State Transportation Campaign, and Albert Papp, Jr. of the NJ Association of Railroad Passengers. Legislators present for Steiner's remarks included Senator Robert Gordon (D-Bergen; Chairman, Legislative Oversight Committee), Senate Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg (D-Bergen), and Senate Minority Leader Thomas Kean, Jr., (R-Union).

Steiner also appealed to the assembled gathering of lawmakers on behalf of less-affluent New Jerseyans, who not only depend on active transportation as their only link to mass transit options, but also bear the brunt of fare hikes and service cuts. "Biking and walking enables many economically disadvantaged to reach transit, to complete their commutes," said Steiner. "While fare hikes may cause many of us to dig deeper into our pockets, scaling down mass transit can cause personal upheaval for these individuals that those with resources cannot begin to contemplate."

About the New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition

The New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition is a statewide advocacy organization for bicyclists and pedestrians. NJBWC is dedicated to protecting the rights and safety of New Jersey's bicyclists and walkers, promoting bicycling and walking for fun, fitness, and transportation, educating cyclists, walkers, and drivers about our rights and responsibilities, and connecting our communities with a smarter transportation system. NJBWC is a collective voice for everyone who believes that a safer, more rideable and walkable New Jersey means a more livable, sustainable New Jersey.

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