



New Jersey
Bike & Walk
Coalition

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U.S. Representative Albio Sires Gives Keynote Address at N.J. Bike & Walk Summit

*Congressman Heads Slate of Influential Policy Architects Speaking to Capacity
Crowd at the State's 6th Annual Bike & Walk Summit*

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (Feb. 23, 2015) – Albio Sires, U.S. Congressman representing New Jersey's 8th District, headed a lineup of influential speakers at this year's New Jersey Bike & Walk Summit, which took place on Saturday, February 21, 2015 in New Brunswick. Sires, a prominent advocate in the House of Representatives for sound transportation policy, delivered a keynote address to a capacity crowd at the Civic Square Forum at Rutgers University's Edward J. Bloustein School.

“Part of the problem in Washington is that some people don't know how important bicycle paths and crosswalks really are,” said Sires, who introduced the Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure Financing Act of 2014 as a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Sires also made it clear that the state is gradually making progress in building active transportation infrastructure. “New Jersey is a very congested state, but we have a lot of innovative approaches, and we do the best we can,” said Sires.

Introducing Sires was Essex County Freeholder Brendan Gill, who noted the importance of promoting active transportation on the policy level. “The benefits of the public policy that encourages bike and walking go beyond just biking and walking; they impact everyone,” said Gill, who also serves as a board member of the NJ Bike & Walk Coalition.

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New Brunswick Mayor James Cahill gave the opening remarks with a speech that highlighted his city's role in improving conditions for bicyclists and pedestrians. "With dedication, commitment and focus, change can happen," said Cahill. "Our Complete Streets policy is continuing to be realized through new installations that make us a better place for cyclists and pedestrians."

Other notable speakers included former NYCDOT Policy Director Jon Orcutt, the Federal Highway Administration's Robert Clark, and writer and cycling advocate Susi Wunsch. Orcutt is lauded for his role in advancing sustainable transportation options in the tri-state area and New York City in particular, as Policy Director under Janette Sadik-Khan. Clark is responsible for administering federal highway aid and overseeing surface transportation needs and safety program goals in the state of New Jersey. And Wunsch is a nationally-known writer and founder of the Velojoy cycling lifestyle organization.

In addition to the plenary sessions, breakout groups were held throughout the day, along with opportunities for networking. Session themes include Pedestrian Safety, Alternative Transportation Implementation, Health and Equity, Funding and Governance, Safe Routes to Schools, Community Engagement, and Tools and Education.

"We're absolutely thrilled that this year's Summit was such a resounding success," said Cyndi Steiner, Executive Director of the New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition, the organizers of the Summit, in collaboration with the Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University's Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. "Not only were we able to feature a dynamic slate of speakers, but we were able to inspire and motivate attendees to be a positive influence on their communities for the growth of active transportation."

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 safer, more rideable and walkable New Jersey means a more livable, sustainable New Jersey.

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