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February 15, 2012

The Honorable Benjamin Cardin
United States Senate
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thaddeus Cochran
United States Senate
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cardin and Senator Cochran:

On behalf of the 1.1 million members of the National Association of REALTORS®, I offer my sincere appreciation for your efforts in sponsoring an important amendment to S. 1813, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act that ensures communities are able to prioritize critical projects at the local level.

NAR strongly supports the ability of localities to determine and fulfill their unique, multimodal transportation needs, and we have been concerned that provisions of S. 1813 would curtail this ability by making detrimental changes to programs such as Transportation Enhancements which have proven so beneficial to communities across the country. Those benefits have not been limited to users of the facilities but have extended more broadly to local economies. In fact, a study by the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) determined that American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds expended on Transportation Enhancements projects created far more jobs per \$1 million invested than any other form of transportation investment.

We support your effort to prevent an overall reduction of federal funds accessible to local communities for implementing multimodal transportation solutions. NAR research shows that no matter what type of community Americans call home, they want to be able to walk and bike safely for recreation and transportation. The unfortunate reality has been that in many cases, if funds are not dedicated to non-road project categories or made available through competitive local/regional application processes such as the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants, the chance of obtaining funding for needed bicycle and pedestrian facilities approaches zero. REALTORS® understand the significance of this infrastructure in creating neighborhoods with stable property values and a good quality of life.

We thank you for your amendment and support it whole-heartedly.

Sincerely,

Maurice "Moe" Veissi
2012 President, National Association of REALTORS®



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