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April 13, 2026

Senate Committee on Transportation

Re: H.944 – Transportation Alternatives Grant Program Amendments

Dear Chair Westman and Members of the Committee,

Local Motion appreciates the opportunity to comment on H.944 and the proposed updates to Vermont's Transportation Alternatives (TAP) Grant Program.

We fully support the amendment to the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) passed by the House, allowing full flexibility for VTrans, paired with continued preferential weighting for bicycle and pedestrian projects.

The Transportation Alternatives Program is the federal government's primary funding source dedicated to bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, including Safe Routes to School. We recommend that the Committee retain the House language, consistent with VTrans and T4VT's recommendations, which preserves this preferential weighting while still allowing flexibility to fund other eligible projects, such as salt sheds.

Testimony in the House highlighted that environmental mitigation projects, particularly salt sheds, experience a high cancellation rate of roughly 35% under TAP. This creates added pressure on VTrans to obligate funds quickly, or risk losing federal dollars and reducing future allocations. In contrast, bicycle and pedestrian projects are more predictable, easier to deliver, and more reliable in ensuring funds are fully utilized.

Continued investment in bike and pedestrian infrastructure supports critical safety and accessibility improvements across Vermont's rural towns and villages.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marcie Gallagher
Local Motion
Burlington, Vermont

Local Motion is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our Tax ID is 03-0361422.

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