

February 27, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House,
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Bicycle access throughout the USA

The US government faces big challenges in repairing and modernizing America's transportation infrastructure. I like the lead you are taking in pursuing alternative forms of energy (other than oil) in the hope that America will soon produce goods and services with less dependence on oil and using less of it. I also salute your endeavors for a cleaner and greener America.

But dear Mr. President you can also help in taking the lead to provide greater bicycle access on all roads and highways in America for bicycle commuting. I know that many of the roads in America are not safe for bicycling. But we got to start somewhere. I like to see some transportation dollars made available to states and towns in America for them to gradually provide bicycle paths on its major roads and highways and secondary highways to encourage bicycle commuting. I think there is a great opportunity to inexpensively establish bicycle path ways on secondary highways. Safety is a big issue, so states and counties should determine where easy conversions could be made.

Businesses and all shopping centers and government offices should be encouraged to provide bicycling parking facilities on their premises. In one car park, you can park about 25 bicycles, so we are not asking too much.

In some warmer parts of the country bicycle commuting is possible throughout the year. In colder parts of the country, at least, commuting by bicycle can be encouraged in the summer, spring and fall seasons. Of course, not everyone is going to jump on the bandwagon, but if you Mr. President propose this issue as a transportation alternative, I am sure there will be a lot of enthusiasm.

Bicycle travel gives people the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors on a minimal budget. Traveling on a bike provides such a sense of pleasure and well-being; it's great for your mind and body. A ride of nearly any distance can give you life long memories.

When you support commuter bicycling Mr. President, you also support a healthier America. Over 50% of adults and children are obese in this country. If we have the infrastructure in place, adults can bicycle to train and bus stations and children can bicycle to school. Just think of the extra exercise that these riders can get as they move to and fro to their destinations on a bicycle.

I hope this letter receives your attention. I am 66 years old, and still hope to make a difference.

Yours truly

Merrill Cassell