



# Bike Delaware

www.bikede.org

A coalition of like minded citizens and organizations that promote bicycling as a healthy alternative to driving and advocate safe provisions within our transportation system.

## The Active Community Transportation Act of 2009

December 17, 2009

Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), the co-chair and founder of the Congressional Bike Caucus, is introducing the "Active Community Transportation Act of 2009" (ACT) next week:

[http://support.railstotrails.org/site/DocServer/DRAFT\\_Active\\_Transportation\\_Act\\_of\\_2009.pdf?docID=841](http://support.railstotrails.org/site/DocServer/DRAFT_Active_Transportation_Act_of_2009.pdf?docID=841)

ACT would establish a federal competitive grant program to fund "active" transportation infrastructure. If we were to win an ACT grant for northern New Castle county, it would mean about **\$50 million** to build a safe and convenient transportation network for routine non-motorized (walking and biking) travel between neighborhoods, schools, work, shopping and recreation areas. The WILMPACO Active Transportation case statement describing a proposal for how the money can be found here:

<http://www.wilmapco.org/Active2010/Case%20Statement%20for%20the%20Wilmington%20Metropolitan%20Region.pdf>

Among other things, with this money we could take a bunch of isolated off-road paths, including the Northern Delaware Greenway, the Wilmington Riverwalk, the James Hall Trail and *connect them all together* as part of complete, non-motorized network connecting the Pennsylvania border – to Wilmington – to New Castle – to Newark – to the Maryland border.

Yesterday (December 16), Rep. Blumenauer personally asked Rep. Castle to be a lead co-sponsor of ACT. While Rep. Blumenauer has already identified a lot of support for ACT within his own caucus, so far no Republicans are on board. *It is critically important, however, that the bill have bipartisan support right from the beginning.* We believe that Rep. Castle is one of a small number of Republican congressmen who might be persuaded to co-sponsor the bill. And we have only a small window of opportunity – probably only a week – to convince Rep. Castle (assuming he needs any convincing) to sign on as a lead co-sponsor of the bill.

Whether ACT is eventually included in the federal surface transportation bill next year may ultimately depend on factors over which we have no control. But if Delaware is going to have an impact on the process, it's almost certainly going to be *right now* – in the next few days - and it's going to be in getting Rep. Castle on board as a Republican co-sponsor of ACT before the bill is introduced next week.

There is no time to write a letter and have it arrive in time by mail to affect Rep. Castle decision to co-sponsor. If you have convenient access to a fax machine, you can fax it to Rep. Castle at

Fax: 202-225-2291

If you only have time for an email, you can go to:  
<http://www.castle.house.gov/Contact/>

(Because of its convenience, an email may make a smaller impression than a faxed letter. If you have time, send the fax.)