



The Massachusetts Chapter

July 18, 2013

Senator Eileen Donoghue, Chairwoman
Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Business
Room 112, State House
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Tackey Chan, Vice Chairman
Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Business
Room 26, State House
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Support for S68, “An Act relative to active streets and healthy communities”

Dear Chairwoman Donoghue and Vice Chairman Chan:

We are writing in support of Senate Bill 68, “An Act relative to active streets and healthy communities,” sponsored by Senator Harriette Chandler. The program created under this legislation would encourage cities and towns across the Commonwealth to implement Complete Streets policies by creating a small grant program for which they would become eligible after passing a Complete Streets bylaw or ordinance in addition to taking several other actions. “Complete streets” are streets designed to allow for more trips to be taken via active and public transit such as walking, cycling, bus, and train.

The presence of Complete Streets infrastructure such as improved sidewalks and bicycle facilities encourages an active, healthy lifestyle and reduces auto dependency. In addition to health benefits, Complete Streets can boost the local economy supporting local business districts and increasing property values. While some cities and towns in Massachusetts have already taken steps to implement Complete Streets, this program would provide the necessary incentives and support to encourage even more cities and towns do so. We ask for your support to report this bill favorably.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information on this proposed program, please contact either Rebecca Davis at the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (617-933-0708, rdavis@mapc.org) or Maddie Ribble at the Massachusetts Public Health Association (617-697-2107, mribble@mphaweb.org).

Sincerely,

Michael Cahill, **Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs**
Allyson Perron, **American Heart/Stroke Association**
Jim Wilusz, **Be Well Berkshires**

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