

Bicycle Commuter Act of 2025

Introduced in the Senate by: Senators Peter Welch (D-Vt.); Alex Padilla (D-Calif.)

Introduced in the House by: Representative Mike Thompson (D-CA-04)

Background:

Cities and towns across the America are investing in bike-friendly infrastructure to create safer, greener, and more connected communities. Using a bicycle to commute to work yields many environmental and quality-of-life benefits, from improving physical fitness to reducing time spent in traffic and cutting down on transportation-sector emissions. However, commuters who bike to work do not currently receive the same federal incentives as workers who opt for other forms of transportation such as parking and public transit.

In 2009, Congress created the <u>Bicycle Benefit Subsidy Program</u> to encourage more workers to bike to their jobs by allowing employers to offer a non-taxable reimbursement of up to \$20 per month for expenses related to bicycle commuting. However, employees who elected to participate in this program were forced to forfeit other commuter benefits, such as those provided for parking or transit. The non-taxable bicycle commuter benefit was suspended until 2026 by the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017*, eliminating this financial incentive for employees who bike to work.

Legislation:

The *Bicycle Commuter Act of 2025* would reinstate and expand the non-taxable bicycle commuter benefit under the Bicycle Benefit Subsidy Program. This bicameral legislation would also align the program with other commuter benefits to accommodate a variety of commuting options by:

- Making the benefit a pre-tax benefit, similar to parking and transit benefits, equivalent to 30% of the parking benefit, or \$97.50 in 2025;
- Allowing recipients to claim the bicycle benefit in-tandem with other transit and parking benefits; and
- Making electric bicycles, bikeshare and scootershare services eligible for the benefit.

Supporting Organizations:

The *Bicycle Commuter Act* is supported by the Association for Commuter Transportation, League of American Bicyclists, North American Bikeshare and Scootershare Association, PeopleForBikes, Rails to Trails Conservancy, Safe Routes Partnership, and Sierra Club.