Chicagoland’s voice for better biking, walking and transit
We are the voice for better transportation options in Chicagoland

Great things are taking shape in Chicago and the suburbs, and the Active Transportation Alliance has played no small role in making it all happen.

People throughout the region have more transportation options thanks to Active Trans. We mobilize supporters, connect with public officials, secure funding for great new local projects and provide assistance to people who wish to make their local communities better places for people to walk, bike and take transit.

With more than 7,000 members behind us, Active Trans rallies support for healthier, cleaner transportation options in the region.

Thank you for supporting Active Trans.
Active Trans works with residents and community leaders throughout Chicagoland to make biking, walking and transit easier and more inviting.

**Advocacy & campaigns**

**Kinzie bike lane stays**
When a local alderman wanted to remove Chicago’s first protected bike on West Kinzie Street in River North, Active Trans successfully mobilized more than 1,400 people in opposition. The bike lane was kept in place thanks to our ability to swiftly organize a strong public response.

**Better access to Big Marsh**
To ensure that the new Big Marsh bike park on Chicago’s Far South Side will be easy to reach for people biking and taking transit from nearby neighborhoods, Active Trans worked with Slow Roll Chicago and other partners to develop a set of recommendations for improving the transportation infrastructure.

**Bikeways for All**
Active Trans used a community driven, participatory process to develop its “Bikeways for All” vision document, which lays out a plan for expanding bike infrastructure throughout the city while ensuring that it’s welcoming to everyone.

**Bikes on the South Shore Line**
Working in tandem with other advocacy groups, Active Trans mobilized hundreds of members and supporters to pressure the Northern Indiana Commuter Train District to allow bikes on the South Shore Line. No longer the only commuter train line in the nation that doesn’t allow passengers to bring bikes on board, the agency has launched a pilot program that allows people to bring their bikes on board.
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**Informing voters**
In advance of the 2014 and 2015 state and municipal elections, Active Trans released a state and municipal policy platform outlining our top priorities. We also conducted our first-ever candidate questionnaire, for which we received responses from 70 Chicago City Council candidates and 4 out of 5 mayoral candidates. We published all the responses in full as part of our first Municipal Election Voter Guide.

**Safe routes for kids in Illinois**
Active Trans launched a state legislative campaign to expand funding to the Safe Routes to School Program in Illinois. As part of this effort, we organized a 15-member coalition of statewide public health and transportation organizations to campaign for safe routes.

**Support for transit**
When cuts were proposed to regional transit by the Illinois governor’s office, Active Trans successfully spurred more than 1,500 residents to share their objections with the governor. In support of our campaign to create a dedicated revenue stream for countywide transit expansion, we generated more than 2,000 letters to the Cook County Board.

**Building momentum for bus rapid transit**
One of the best avenues for near-term transit improvements is transforming bus routes into rapid transit lines. To help move these local initiatives forward, Active Trans has been helping smooth the road for Chicago’s bus rapid transit projects by educating lawmakers, community groups, businesses and residents about Loop Link and BRT on Ashland Avenue.
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A better Lakefront Trail
Active Trans launched a planning process with the Chicago Park District and other stakeholders aimed at creating separated trail space for people biking and walking, and adding better pavement markings and signage. In support of these goals, we generated more than 1,700 petition signatures from residents, and more than 1,000 people responded to our survey about problems on the Lakefront Trail and how to make them better.

Improving dangerous intersections
After we launched a regional campaign to improve the safety of people walking and biking at 20 of the most dangerous intersections in the city and suburbs, we engaged decision makers and residents around all 20 intersections, securing commitments from five controlling bodies to go ahead with safety improvements. We also generated more than 800 signatures supporting the campaign.

Altgeld Gardens gets a sidewalk
Working with a grassroots transportation advocacy group at the Altgeld Gardens public housing complex located on the City of Chicago’s far southern edge, Active Trans helped secure funding from the Chicago Housing Authority for building a sidewalk at the complex where none existed before. The sidewalk replaced a frequently mud-filled dirt path that connected the housing complex with the only local grocery store.

Moving toward Vision Zero
Active Trans organized a group of traffic safety experts, physicians and crash victims’ families to endorse Chicago’s Vision Zero goal, which strives to eliminate traffic fatalities by 2022. As part of this campaign, Active Trans has been meeting with Chicago City Council members about our advocacy efforts, sharing our vision for how the city can make further progress on this important goal.
Active Trans teaches adults and kids the benefits of active transportation and how to stay safe while getting around.

**Bike education keeps rolling**

A couple years ago, we launched a new, innovative concept: a mobile fleet of kids’ bikes that local municipalities can use to teach kids how to ride. This year, we expanded the program called Kids on Wheels by adding a second mobile fleet, enabling us to triple the number of student participants. It allowed us to extend our reach to about 1,700 students at 17 schools within four school districts.

**School curriculum**

More than 5,500 students used our active transportation curriculum in schools throughout the region — an increase of more than 25 percent from previous year.

**Supporting schools**

Active Trans provided technical assistance to help 20 schools increase the number of kids biking and walking to school. The support included the creation of multiple Walking Wednesday programs, Walking School Bus training, and support for Walk and Bike to School Day events.

**Playstreets on the South Side**

Active Trans managed 75 pop-up playground events — known as PlayStreets — in the south half of the City of Chicago. As part of the series of events, we partnered with 11 community organizations and hosted more than 9,000 total participants.
Active Trans teaches adults and kids the benefits of active transportation and how to stay safe while getting around.

**New education videos**

Among the 13 educational and advocacy-oriented videos Active Trans released online during the year, our most popular video, which is on bike theft prevention, received about 51,500 views. Our YouTube channel garnered 312 subscribers and more than 85,000 views during the year.

**Advice when you’ve been in a crash**

During the year, a dozen Active Trans volunteers fielded more than 75 calls on our Crash Support Hotline, which provides guidance for people who have been in a crash while biking or walking.

**Courtroom advocacy**

Active Trans provided courtroom advocacy in two DUI cases that resulted in the death of people biking: Bobby Cann and Hector Avalos. Between the two cases, Active Trans attended approximately 18 hearings and coordinated the attendance of an average of 10 advocates per hearing.

**In the neighborhoods**

For several years, Active Trans’ Go campaign has worked to encourage biking, walking and transit among residents in individual Chicago neighborhoods. This year in Chicago’s Albany Park and Edgewater neighborhoods, Active Trans organized 58 biking, walking and transit events, and delivered nearly 1,800 active transportation resource kits to residents.
Active Trans helps local communities plan for healthy transportation options.

**Healthy streets in Cook County**
We kicked off a two-and-a-half-year long project to assist suburban Cook County communities in putting in place Complete Streets development initiatives and active transportation plans. As part of this program, which is a partnership with the Cook County Department of Public Health, we provided technical assistance to 8 communities.

**Better biking in Oak Park**
Active Trans led a study on the development of a neighborhood greenways system and feasibility of a bike-sharing program in Oak Park. To increase bike education, encouragement and safety programming in the near west region of Chicagoland, Active Trans assumed management of Greenline Wheels in Oak Park.

**Complete Streets in Memphis**
Active Trans produced for the City of Memphis, Tennessee, a Complete Streets Project Delivery Manual, which provides guidance and recommendations for building and designing Complete Streets.

**Plans for Winfield and Wayne Township**
Active Trans created a bike transportation plan for northwest suburban Wayne Township that included recommendations for six communities, DuPage County, and the DuPage County Forest Preserve District, as well as the unincorporated roadways within the township. For nearby Winfield, we created a signage plan.

**A first for northwest Indiana**
We assisted the Town of Lowell, Indiana, with the development and adoption of a Complete Streets Policy – the first for a northwest Indiana community.
When people participate in Active Trans’ events, they get a glimpse of how fun and easy active travel can be.

**MB Bike the Drive hits new high**

Nearly 21,000 riders turned out for our annual MB Bike the Drive fundraiser, one of the best big bike rides in the nation. Thanks to adding some new features to the event and ramping up our marketing efforts, the fundraiser proved to be our biggest year ever for total revenue, merchandise sales and donations.

**New software for bike commuting competition**

For our annual bike commuting competition called the Bike Commuter Challenge, we successfully built our own tracking software and app for participants, and signed up nearly 400 workplaces as participants.

**BLT goes retro**

For our longest-standing ride, the Boulevard Lakefront Tour, we resurrected some of the original routes from 27 years ago. Many of the 1,700 people who turned out for our this year’s BLT enjoyed a roll down memory lane.

**Roll the Cold unveiled**

It was the first year we launched a winter version of the Bike Commuter Challenge called Roll the Cold, and linked it to Winter Bike to Work Day. More than 200 people tracked their trips, and many provided donations.
How you can help

Active Trans is more than just an advocacy group — we are YOUR voice for creating better options for getting around in your community. By supporting Active Trans, you’re strengthening our work, and helping to create more livable communities for everyone.

There are many ways you can help:

- Donate
- Join as an individual, family or business
- Become a sponsor
- Volunteer for Active Trans
- Ask your employer to provide matching gifts
- Commit to planned giving/estate planning
- Attend an event

Supporting the Active Transportation Alliance is investing in your beliefs and the way of life you want for your family, friends and yourself. Learn more at activetrans.org.
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Year-end report (FY 2015)

Total: $3,525,563

- contracts: 42%
- individuals: 13%
- grants: 10%
- events: 35%

Total: $3,381,664

- program services: 86%
- administration: 10%
- fundraising: 4%