

Active Transportation Alliance Congressional Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate: Rep. Jan Schakowsky 9th District

- 1. The 116th Congress will start work on the next surface transportation reauthorization. What are your transportation priorities?**

We need a 21st century transportation system, including robust infrastructure investments that provide public transit, bicycling and pedestrian options. I have worked hard to improve the CTA and Metra, to create a high-speed rail system, and to promote bike-friendly transportation. Smart transportation investments will improve our environment by reducing pollution, promote the interests of commuters and businesses, and provide good jobs.

- 2. The Highway Trust Fund (HTF) which funds highway and transit projects, is funded through excise taxes on transportation-related goods, the largest being taxes on gas and diesel. These fuel taxes were last increased in 1993, and have not kept pace with inflation and transportation costs. Under the FAST Act, Congress moved \$72 billion from the general fund to the HTF for five years. What are your views on the HTF and federal funding of transportation?**

We need to have a guaranteed, adequate source of funding for transportation investments. I have supported increases in the excise tax and will continue to look for a secure source of funding, instead of short-term, stopgap measures.

- 3. Right now, 20 percent of Highway Trust Fund (HTF) dollars go to the transit fund, and 80 percent go to Highways fund. One to two percent of funding is devoted to bicycling and walking, which comes out of the Highway fund. What is your position on these funding allocations?**

We need to invest in the full range of transportation modalities, but we also need to recognize that more and more people in our communities are turning to walking, bicycling, scooters and non-automobile forms of transportation. We need to make sure that we make the right level of investments to provide for them. At current HTF aggregate funding levels, I believe that 1-2 percent is not adequate.

- 4. Last year, over 40,000 people lost their lives on our roadways. Over 16 percent of those fatalities were bicyclists and pedestrians. What role, if any, should the federal government play in roadway safety?**

The federal government must work with state and local governments to improve safety – saving lives and reducing injuries. We have moved to provide safer bike routes and to reduce distracted driving, but we need to do more. We should promote research and the sharing of best practices to make sure that roads and sidewalks are safe for drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

- 5. The Center for Disease Control reports that physical activity maintains health, reduces the risk of developing obesity, diabetes and other chronic diseases, reduces feelings of depression and**

may also improve academic performance. What, if any, role should the federal government have in encouraging Americans to engage in physical activities?

As a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Health, I am working hard to improve public health. Physical exercise is critical to reducing obesity, improving behavioral health, and helping individuals live quality lives throughout their lifespan. We need to improve opportunities for physical activities in schools and in our communities. That includes providing safe and accessible bicycling and walking opportunities, promoting urban parks, and funding physical education in public schools.

- 6. Under the Clean Air Act, Congress requires the Environmental Protection agency to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards for contaminants such as carbon monoxide (CO), particulate matter (PM) and ozone (O3). Carbon dioxide (CO2) Is not covered. What, if any, role should the federal government play in regulating carbon dioxide?**

I am a strong supporter of policies to eliminate emissions of carbon dioxide which damage public health and the environment, including a carbon tax. I believe that the Trump Administration's actions to reverse course in this area will have lasting consequences if not quickly overturned. As a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I am working hard to push for carbon dioxide regulation.

- 7. What role do bicycling, walking and public transit play in the transportation system in your district?**

My district has always been vocal in urging more investments to support bicyclists, walking and public transit. My constituents rely on those forms of sustainable transportation options – whether they need to get to work or the doctor, visit friends and families, or engage in recreational activities. I will continue to look for funding to improve those options.