

- Congress and the White House are making major decisions right now that will shape this reauthorization bill, increasing the urgency to advocate for a bold package for trails, walking and biking. We see this as an opportunity for transformative policy change—one that moves Americans where they need to go, whether or not they drive a car. **Our vision increases funding for trails, walking and biking, while targeting investments in projects that connect people to the places they want to go and serve communities most in need.**
- **Here's the trio of bipartisan-backed bills** that together more than double direct funding for trails, walking and biking. These bills collectively provide critical policy changes to strategically target investments—so that funds maximize the role of trails and other active transportation infrastructure in contributing to job creation as well as healthy, safe, accessible and equitable communities.
 - **The Connecting America's Active Transportation System Act** (H.R.5696 pending reintroduction/S.684) is a new policy that provides \$500 million annually over five years to help communities and regions accelerate their work to build connected active-transportation systems through sizeable competitive federal grants.
 - **The Transportation Alternatives Enhancements Act** (H.R.463/S.614) increases funding and reduces transfers of Transportation Alternatives, the largest federal funding source for trails, walking and biking.
 - **The Recreational Trails Full Funding Act of 2021** (H.R.1864/Senate bill pending) will greatly increase funding for the Recreational Trails Program to reflect recreational fuel taxes. This is the only federal funding source that supports trail maintenance to ensure good repair as trails age.
- While each of these bills is essential to maximizing the impact of federal investment in active transportation, **we need more visible support for the Connecting America's Active Transportation System Act.** It is the only new program among the trio, yet it is the innovative approach needed to strategically target federal resources so that existing infrastructure and resources are leveraged to generate the most economic, climate and health benefits for the most people. **Increases in funding have less impact without critical policy changes that make it faster and easier to complete trail and active transportation networks.**
- There are more than 40,000 miles of multiuse trails on the ground nationwide, ready to form seamless networks of on- and off-street routes that connect people and places. Considering that 11 million households lack access to a vehicle, and 30% of the U.S. population does not drive, it is imperative that we provide opportunities to safely get around by foot, bike and wheelchair. The opportunity to walk and bike for everyday travel is achievable given the fact that more than one-half of all trips in America can be accessed within a 20-minute bike ride, and a quarter can be accessed within a 20-minute walk.
- One-time investments, like earmarks, can meet near-term needs for iconic projects that can compete with roads and bridges, while **the Connecting America's Active Transportation System Act provides the ongoing funding and framework necessary to accelerate trail network connectivity**, which is essential to make walking, biking and rolling safe and accessible to more people.
- **This is a generational opportunity to invest America's transportation dollars in ways that deliver myriad transportation, health, equity, environmental and economic benefits**, especially as COVID-19 has strained local economies and the capacity of existing trail and active transportation infrastructure.
- As more Americans rely on trails, walking and biking for essential trips, and communities turn to active transportation as an economic strategy, **federal policies must reflect these changes and the opportunities they represent while providing safe routes for all Americans.** Learn more about the impact of connecting America's active transportation infrastructure at railstotrails.org/trailstransform.