Making the Most of Funding Opportunities in the Infrastructure Bill

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
February 7, 2022
Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA)

- $284 billion in new surface transportation spending

- New opportunities for trails and active transportation
  1. More money for existing programs
  2. New focus on connectivity and equitable access
  3. Broad focus on safe and sustainable transportation systems
Dedicated Active Transportation Funding Opportunities

1. Transportation Alternatives
2. Recreational Trails
3. Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program
Trail Eligible Opportunities

- RAISE (formerly TIGER/BUILD)*
- Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program
- Surface Transportation Block Grant Program
- Safe Streets for All/Highway Safety Improvement Program
- Safe Routes to School
- Carbon Reduction Program
- Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement Program
Trail & Active Transportation Connectivity: the cutting edge

- Connecting America’s Active Transportation System Act (S 684, HR 2991)
  - $500M/yr for regional networks + spines between communities

- Infrastructure bill authorizes at $200M/yr. subject to appropriations

- Pending Build Back Better Act includes eligibility for $4B equity pot. IIJA includes $10M for planning pilot program with increased community engagement.
Recreational Trails Program: trail maintenance

- Recreational fuel taxes dedicated to trails
  - Transport policy: Highway Trust Fund
  - Non-motorized (30+%) & motorized (30+%) trails
Transportation Alternatives

- Top funding source for trails & active transportation

- Competitive grants awarded by states & urbanized regions
  - 95+% goes to ped/bike/trail
Transportation Alternatives in BIL

- 70% increase over 5 years*
  - Average $1.4B/year
  - States have opportunity to focus on connectivity and equity

- Up to 5% for program technical assistance

- Limitations on transfers
Preparing for BIL

Think strategically!
- Consider full lifecycle costs when forming a strategy
- Seek inclusion in the STIP/TIP
- Analyze other BIL programs for potential fit

- Know your state programs & politics
- Review current TA & RTP project lists and obligation rates
  - Transportation Alternatives
  - Recreational Trails Program
Preparing for BIL

- Connect with elected officials early and often

Make sure plans and documentation are ready for use in the next reauthorization