

# **Making the Most of Funding Opportunities in the Infrastructure Bill**

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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[Railstotrails.org](https://Railstotrails.org)



# 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



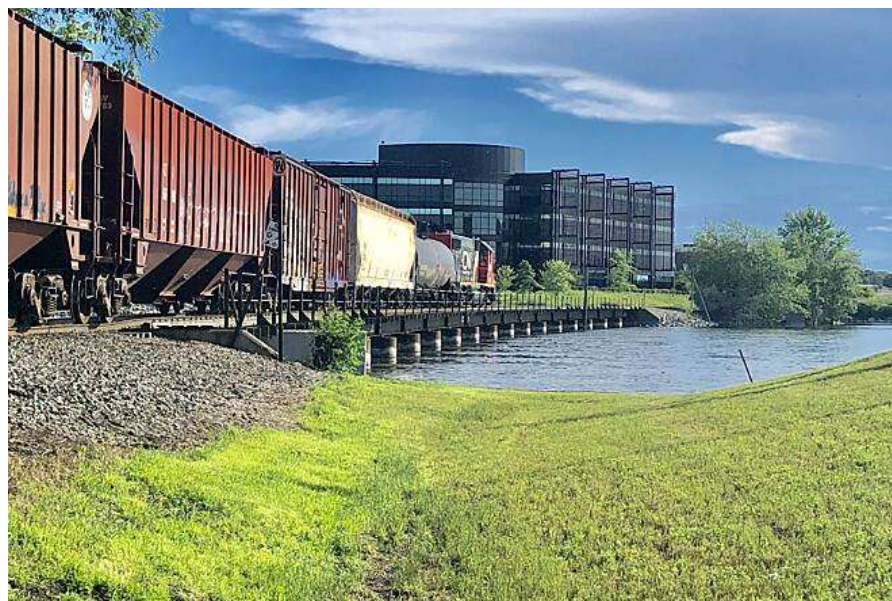
## **Trail *Eligible* Opportunities**

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- 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. IJA 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

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- 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





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