

December 3, 2024

# Post-Election Landscape

## Prospects and Next Steps for the Trails & Active Transportation Movement



*Razorback Regional Greenway in Northwest Arkansas*

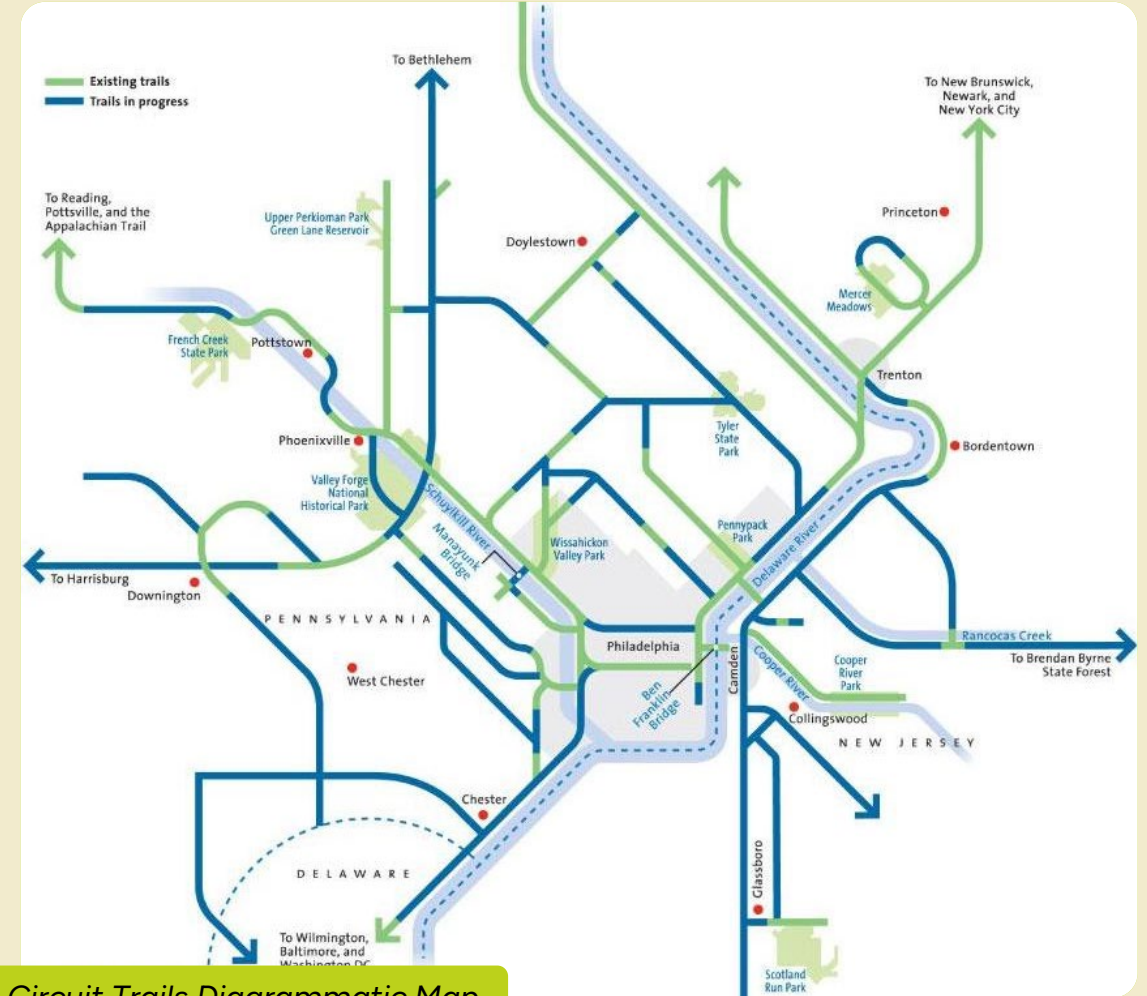
# Where We Are As A Movement

Unprecedented investment in trails and active transportation

- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law \$\$\$
- Robust pipeline of projects at all stages of development in most regions

Growing demand for *connected* infrastructure

- Urban, suburban and rural areas
- Willing to pay—when trails are on the ballot, we win



Circuit Trails Diagrammatic Map

## SUCCESSSES

# County Ballot Measures

**Franklin County, Ohio**, (Columbus) passed a sales tax that will support transit + \$60 million/year for active transportation

Conservation measure in **Lake County, Florida**, yielded \$25 million for trails

**Story County** (\$8M/\$25M for trails) and **Johnson County, Iowa**, (\$30M for conservation, trails eligible)



Ohio & Erie Towpath Trail through Columbus, Ohio

# State Ballot Measures

**Maine's** \$30 million trail bond

**California's** massive climate measure

**Washington** rejected repeal of climate law which supports active transportation infrastructure

**All ballot measures that RTC supported won handily**



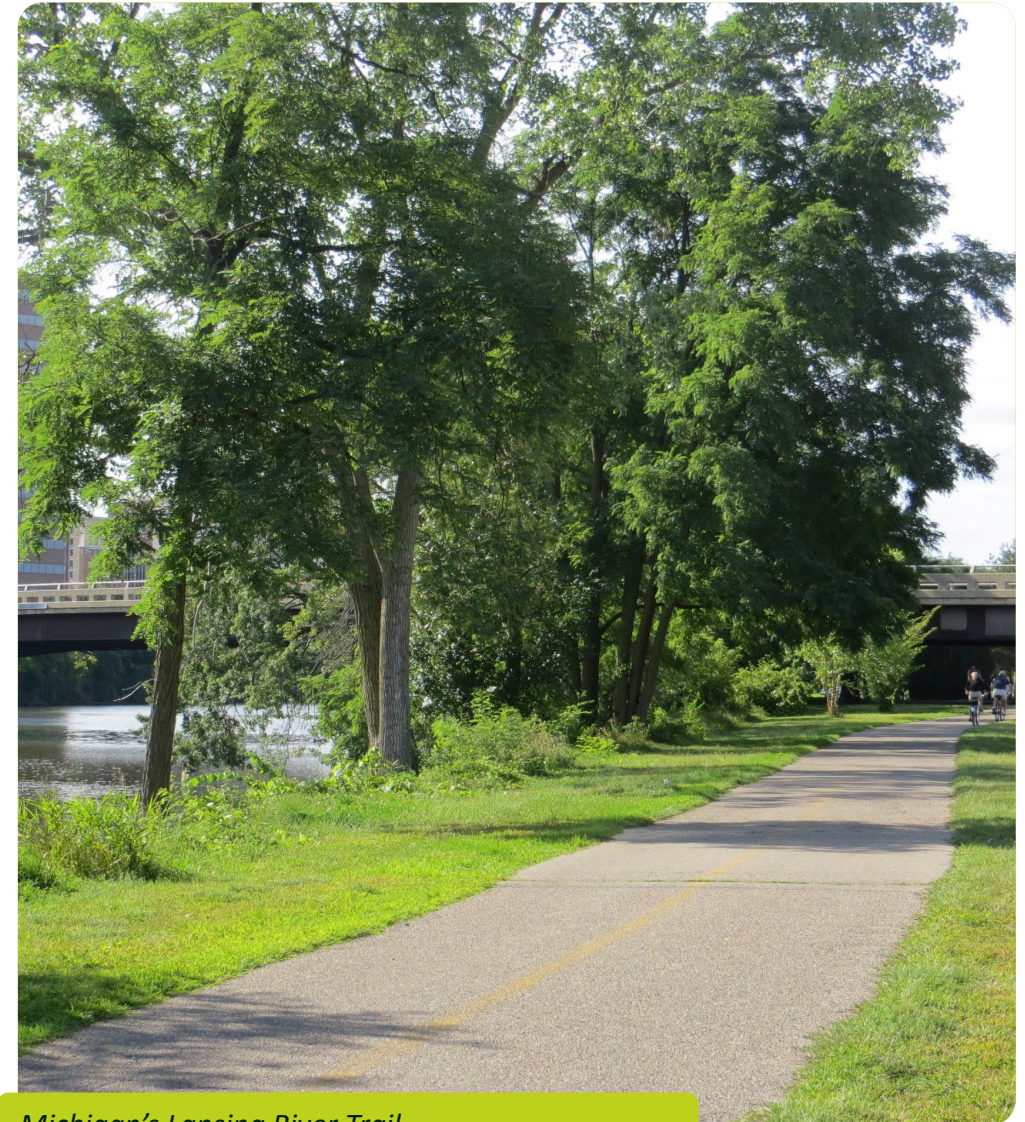
*Maine's Eastern Trail*

# State Elections

**Governors:** unsurprising results, but some trail champs were term-limited (e.g., Inslee, Holcomb)

**State legislatures:**

- Republicans won Michigan House and tied Minnesota House to break Democrats' trifectas (full control)
- Supermajorities ended for Democrats in Vermont; Republicans in Montana and Wisconsin (Senate)



*Michigan's Lansing River Trail*

# Federal Programs Implemented by States

- Transportation Alternatives
- Recreational Trails
- Carbon Reduction
- Highway Safety Improvement Program



North Carolina's Charlotte Rail-Trail | Photo by Scott Stark

# Federal: Congress

Republicans maintained narrow House majority and won Senate

## Things to watch

- Senate filibuster rule
- FY 25 budget
- Transportation Reauthorization
  - Proceed on time? Fiscal cliff
  - Philosophy? Project 2025 devolution agenda
- Railbanking



*Bike lanes in Washington, DC*

# Federal: Executive Branch

- Will Trump the builder or “government efficiency” agenda dominate?
- First 100-day priorities
- Sean Duffy nominated to head USDOT



*US Capitol Building in Washington, DC*

# Discretionary Grant Programs

- RAISE
- Reconnecting Communities Program
- Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)
- Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP)



Revere Beach Parkway, MA | David Loutzenheiser

# Key Next Steps

- ➡ **Organize supporters**
- ➡ **Engage decision-makers**
- ➡ **Advance projects**
- ➡ **Inspire and persuade**



# **Questions and Discussion**