

TrailNation

SUMMIT

Hosted by **Rails to Trails Conservancy**

TrailNation SUMMIT

Hosted by Rails to Trails Conservancy

**KEVIN
MILLS**



RAILS TO TRAILS CONSERVANCY

TrailNation SUMMIT

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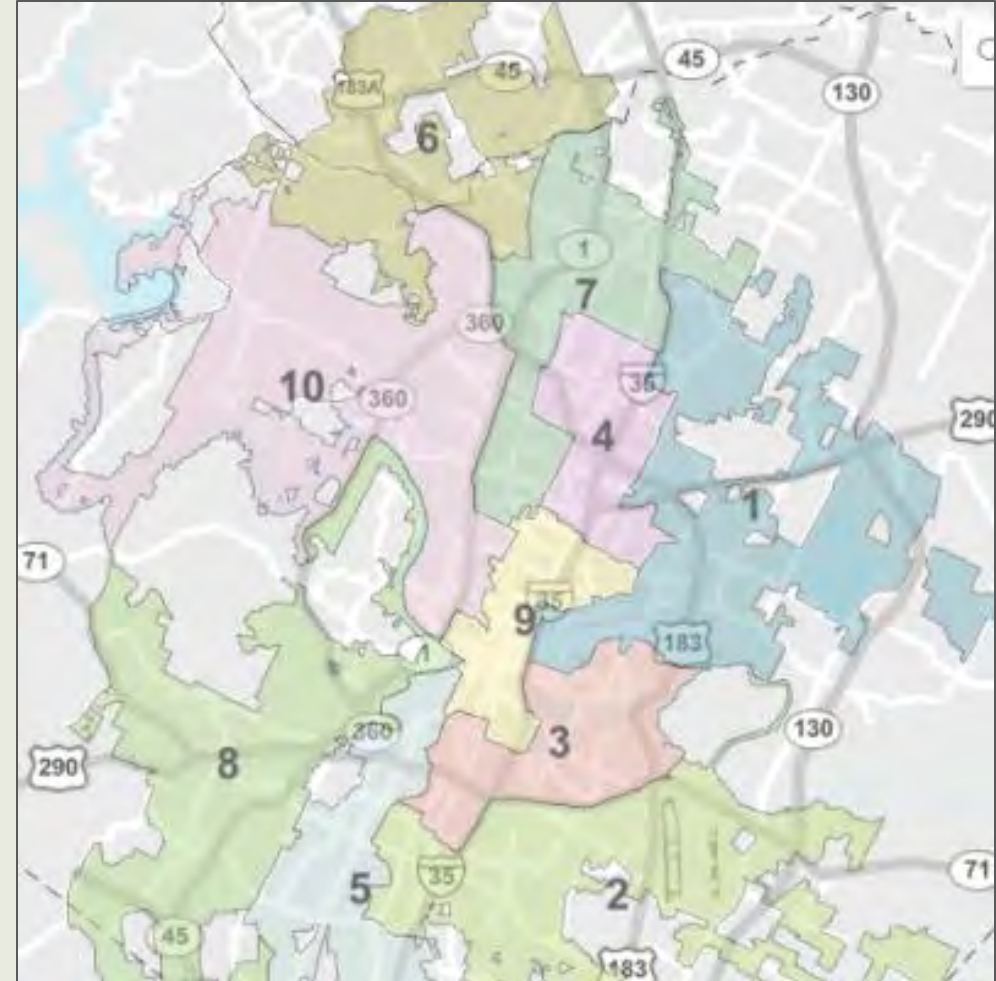
**PAIGE
ELLIS**



AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Austin City Council Member Paige Ellis

District 8





City of Austin, please allocate \$750 million to fund a citywide network of sidewalks, bike lanes, urban trails, and safety improvements to make all ways of getting around - including driving - safe and accessible for all.

 AUSTIN MAYOR STEVE ADLER, AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS



3,653 Signatures Collected

Only 2,747 more until our goal of 6,400

SIGN THIS PETITION

Not in US?

Optional: Organization/business & your position (note: This means your company/org is officially in support so you must be an authorized representative; this will go on our coalition letter to Austin City Council)



AUSTIN PROPOSITION B
TRANSPORTATION BOND

87% IN



FOR 68%

243,974 VOTES

AGAINST 32%

115,607 VOTES





LIVING STREETS

Austin Transportation and Public Works





Federal cuts could put Austin transportation projects in jeopardy

By Tan Radford | Published February 20, 2025 9:29pm CST | Austin | FOX 7 Austin | ➔



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**PETE
DIDISHEIM**



**NATURAL RESOURCES
COUNCIL OF MAINE**



Winning for Maine Trails

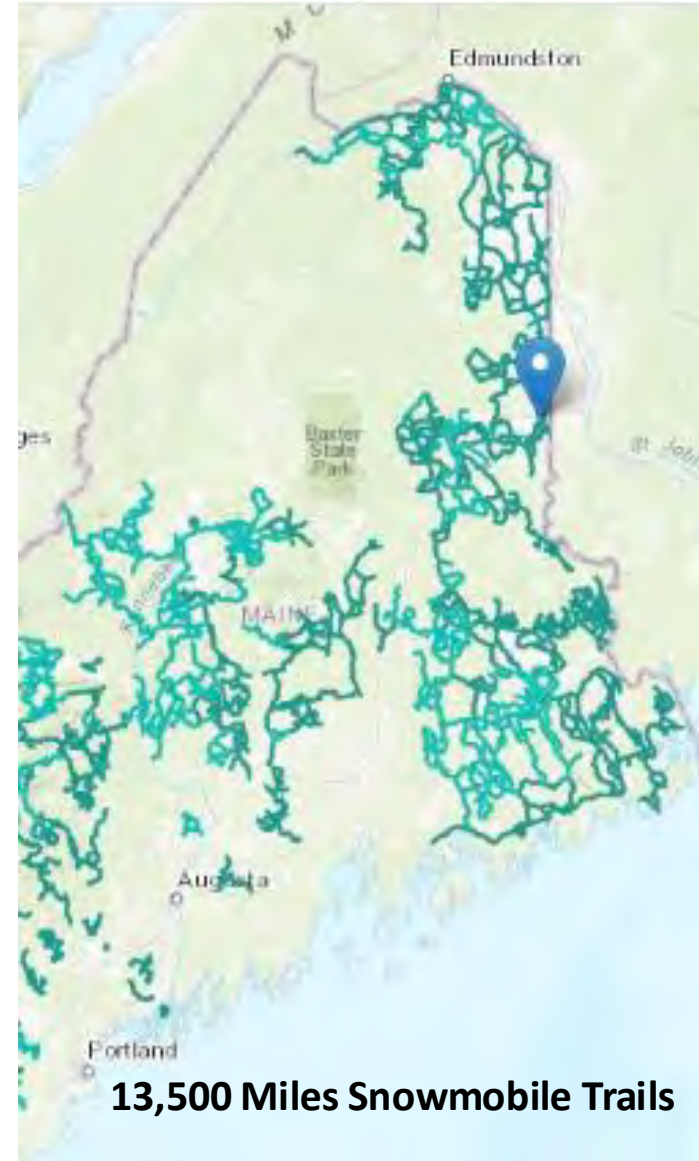
Pete Didisheim, Senior Director of Advocacy



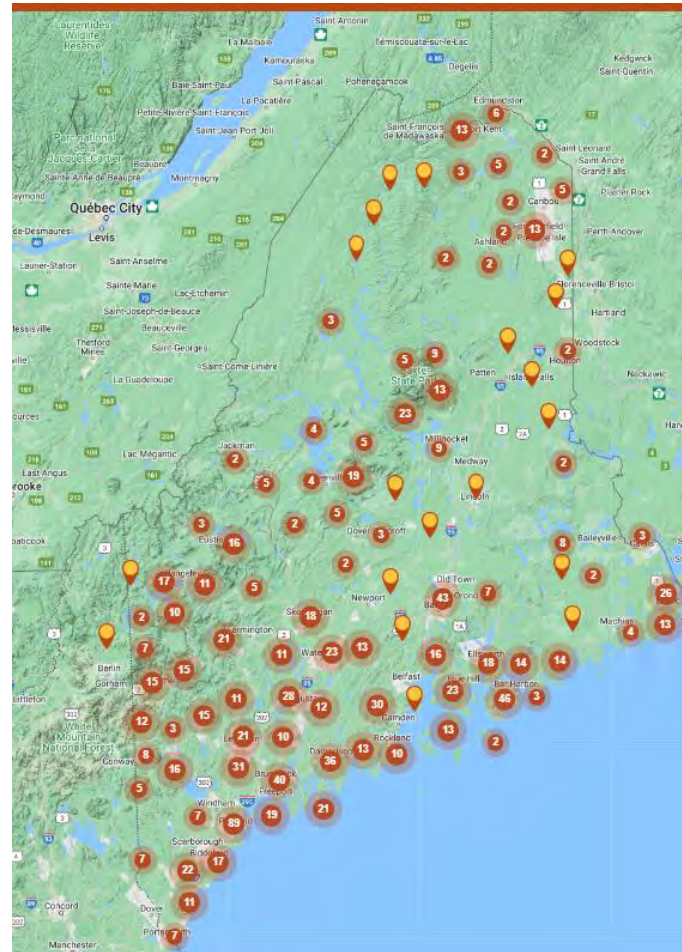




5,800 Miles ATV Trails



13,500 Miles Snowmobile Trails



1,152 trails covering 6,237 miles





Snowmobiling
alone provides
\$600 million
annually to
Maine's economy

A photograph of two hikers walking away on a dirt trail through a dense forest of tall, thin evergreen trees. The hiker in the foreground is wearing a red backpack and a cap, while the second hiker is further ahead. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting a misty or overcast day. The text 'Maine Invests Almost Nothing In our Trails' is overlaid in yellow at the bottom.

**Maine Invests Almost Nothing
In our Trails**



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1156

H.P. 728

House of Representatives, March 14, 2023

**An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Promote the
Design, Development and Maintenance of Trails for Outdoor
Recreation and Active Transportation**

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Robert B. Hunt
ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative FAY of Raymond.
Cosponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin and
Representatives: HENDERSON of Rumford, KUHN of Falmouth, LANDRY of Farmington,
MILLETT of Waterford, PLUECKER of Warren, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, Senators:
BENNETT of Oxford, INGWERSEN of York.





Maine Trails Bond

(LD 1156)

- \$30 Million Bond
- \$7.5 million per year, over four years
- Managed by Bureau of Parks and Lands
- Grants for non-motorized, motorized and diverse use trails
- 10% match

Updated: April 13, 2023

Statewide coalition backs \$30M bond for Maine trails



PHOTO / COURTESY NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL OF MAINE

JOHN RAYMOND

Maine's trails, and the volunteers who maintain them, need help

Maine has some of the most impressive trails in the nation for hiking, biking, snowmobiling, ATVing and other uses. The potential for the future is boundless. But to achieve that future, we need to think differently about our trails than we have in the past. We need to recognize that trails do not maintain themselves. Like other forms of in-

volunteers and raising scarce resources to clear and groom trails, build bridges, publish trail maps and host events that are great fun and great for local businesses.

Snowmobiling and ATVs contribute well over \$1.3 billion to Maine's economy annually. Much of this economic activity depends on volunteer-run clubs, which is not sustainable.

Many older volunteers are aging out and costs are increasing to build and maintain

We need to recognize that trails do not maintain themselves.

Bond comes in. More than 500 organizations, businesses and towns across Maine have endorsed what would be a first-ever trails bond.

Although I'm not a big fan of bonds, I do support this proposal to provide \$7.5 million per year for four years in grants for all types of motorized and non-motorized trail projects. Some trails need urgent attention due to recent storms, and the exciting new ideas will require planning and investment if we are to become

noctet to Mattawamkeag to Fort Kent to Cutler — providing one of the most exciting ATV trail experiences in the entire eastern United States. Katahdin Area Trails is developing a plan for more than 100 miles of trails for non-motorized use between Mount Chase and Millinocket, Maine's Inter-

recreation facilities and economy. The Great American Outdoors Act of 2020 and The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021 have provided

exceptional outdoor recreation opportunities; however, exceptional recreation opportunities come from exceptional outdoor recreation infrastructure. L.D. 1156 will allow communities and organizations all over Maine to design, construct, and maybe even more importantly, maintain trail networks and facilities. The Maine Trails Bond will also increase accessibility, support active transportation which will reduce dependence on fossil fuels, help catch up on deferred maintenance projects, and make Maine a nationally recognized destination for trails.

Mainers have made a living off its natural resources for years. It is time to put more emphasis on advocating for the protection, conservation, and enhancement of our natural resources. Building a better trail infrastructure and maintaining it to a higher standard of care will be good for the people of Maine who live, work, and play here as well as creating

Maine Trails Bond will protect state's precious resources

Why does the Maine Trails Bond (L.D. 1156) legislation deserve our support? As a state that cultivates so much economic value from the outdoor recreation industry, L.D. 1156 is the catalyst we need to help establish and maintain the infrastructure Maine needs to meet the demand of its adventure seeking residents and visitors.

In a previous article, I advocated the need for state-side funding to compliment the federal funding that supports Maine's outdoor

recreation facilities and economy. The Great American Outdoors Act of 2020 and The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021 have provided

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MAINE COMPASS
Matthew Foster

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kristina Cannon is executive director of Main Street Skowhegan, a nonprofit focused on making the town a thriving economic, cultural and recreational community.

port from the state and federal governments to realize Maine's potential as a place with accessible and connected trails that offer a full range of year-round experiences.

That's why I strongly support a bill (L.D. 1156) that would create a Maine Trails Bond. The measure would be Maine's first-ever funding source dedicated to building and maintaining trails for hiking, biking, walking, snowmobiling, ATVs, skiing and all manner of other uses. The proposal has already received statewide support from nearly 300 towns, organizations and



Deryn Stoves/Sun Journal

The Maine Trails Bond would be Maine's first-ever funding source dedicated to building and maintaining trails for hiking, biking, walking, snowmobiling, ATVs, skiing and all manner of other uses.

Maine's trails merit our investment

Skowhegan is not alone in seeing the magnificent value of trails. But we need state and federal support to realize our potential as a place with accessible and connected trails that offer year-round experiences.

During the next month, Maine lawmakers will decide whether to send a Maine Trails Bond to the November ballot so that Maine voters can decide whether to invest \$30 million over the next four years in the development and maintenance of trails statewide.

I know I speak for many in saying that I hope they do. Although Maine currently has tremendous trails that contribute to our economy and quality of life, we have the potential to become a top-tier state in the na-

GUEST COLUMNIST

Maine Trails Bond an investment that would pay dividends for years to come

From Fort Kent to Kittery, Lubec to Lebanon, and all points in between and throughout Maine, the "great outdoors" is unparalleled.

What binds, bonds and connects us as a state — contributing significantly to tourism and our economic strength — are our trails, whether they're local, regional or statewide.

The Legislature must act quickly on a proposed Maine Trails Bond (L.D. 1156) because it represents investments for active transportation, connectivity, and outdoor recreation. With \$30 million, and the ability to leverage another \$6 million plus in matching funds, this would place



Denise Clavette

Most importantly, investing in trails and connectivity here in Maine would be another "feather in our cap," another "tool in the toolbox," a great "reason to locate here," a "raison d'être" (my French Canadian heritage

sidewalks, trails, rail to trail systems and more. I thought everyone had this. Certainly, everyone deserves it.

Later in my career, I helped the Fort Kent town manager write a Maine Department of Transportation grant to develop a trail system along the international border along the dike developed by the Army Corps of Engineers — to the tune of \$850,000. It has been a huge boost to the community.

If anyone has been to Fort Kent and the northern Maine region lately, it is easy to note that it is home to some of the best snowmobile trails throughout the country, also hosting the famed annual Can-Am Two Star race. All of

JENNY KORDICK AND KAY HENRY

Trails bond is an investment in Maine's outdoor brand

Maine trails are priceless, yet we take them for granted. They connect us with each other and the natural world. They provide us with memories, moments of awe and inspiration, and opportunities for recreation and reflection.

Since the pandemic, trail use in Maine and across the nation has exploded. This is a good thing, but increased trail use means increased wear and tear. It also means that the people who use and watch over our trails are generating exciting new ideas for expanding and enhancing Maine's trails, even as the funding to do so is scarce.

That's why Maine Outdoor

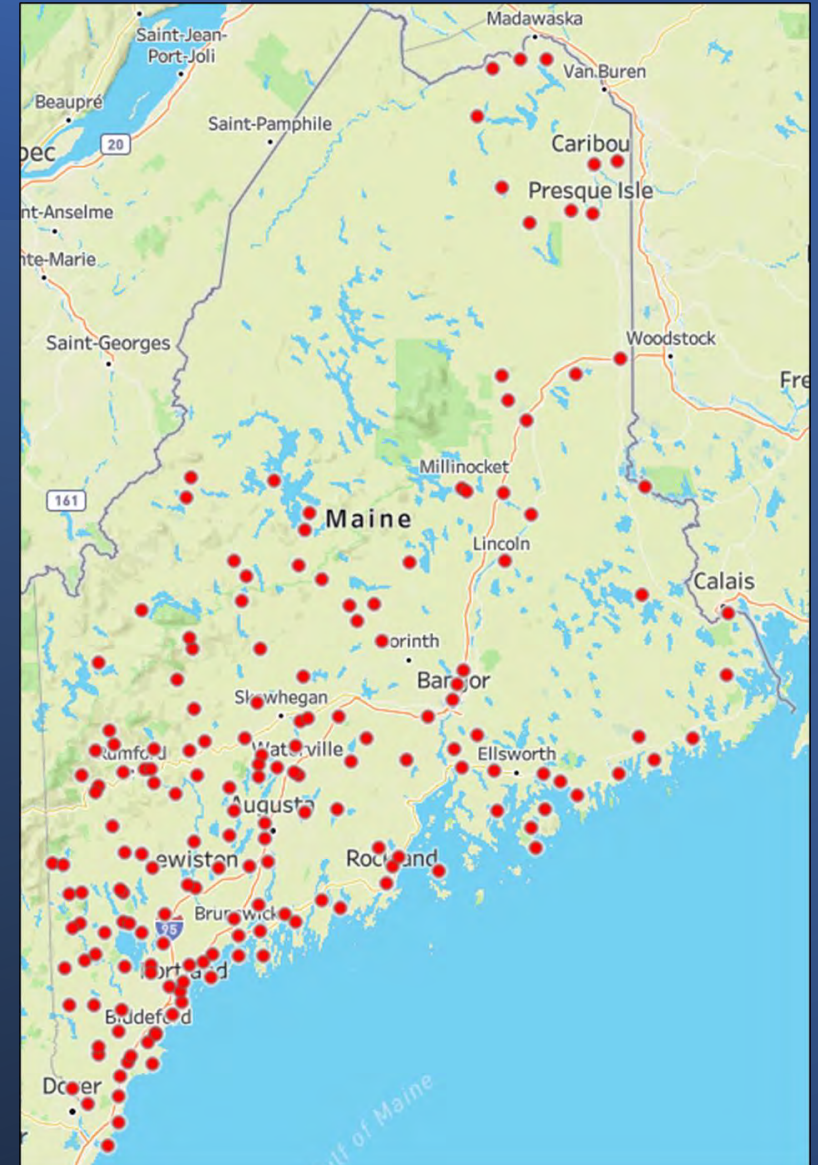
proved more than \$1 billion in highway bonds, but they have never been given a chance to invest in Maine's off-road infrastructure — our trails. The time has come to do so.

Maine Outdoor Brands has joined with more than 300 organizations, businesses and towns across Maine who are urging the Legislature to send the Maine trails bond to the November ballot.

More than 520 Organizations, Businesses, and Towns Statewide

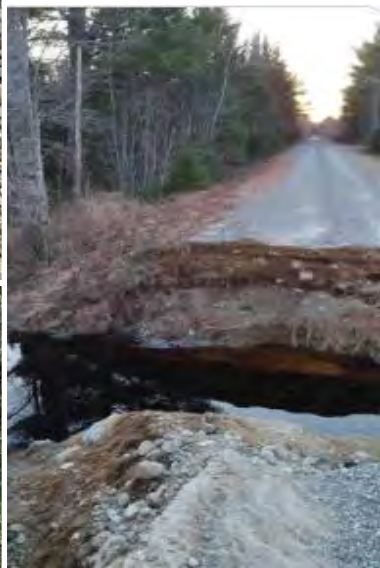
Adaptive Outdoor Education Center
Appalachian Mountain Club
Aroostook Partnership
Associated General Contractors
ATV Maine
Bath-Brunswick Chamber of Commerce
Bethel Area Chamber of Commerce
Bicycle Coalition of Maine
Can-Am Crown Inc.
City of Calais
City of Caribou
City of Gardiner
City of Westbrook
Downeast Sunrise Trail Coalition
Environmental Priorities Coalition
Greater Franklin Economic and Community Development
High Peaks Alliance
Island Institute
Katahdin Chamber of Commerce
Kennebec Valley Council of Governments
Kennebunk-Kennebunkport Chamber
Kittery Trading Post
L.L. Bean
Main Street Skowhegan
Maine Association of Planners
Maine ATV Coalition
Maine Council on Aging
Maine Outdoor Brands
Maine State Chamber of Commerce

Maine Recreation and Park Association
Maine Public Health Association
Maine Snowmobile Association
Maine Tourism Association
Maine Trails Coalition
Maine Youth Camping Association
Moosehead Economic Development Corp
Natural Resources Council of Maine
New England Mountain Bike Association
Northern Maine Development Commission
Orono Economic Development Corporation
Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce
Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce
River Valley Chamber of Commerce
Saddleback Ski Area
St. Croix Valley Chamber of Commerce
Sugarloaf
Sunrise County Economic Council
Teens to Trails
The Nature Conservancy in Maine
Town of Belgrade
Town of Bethel
Town of Brunswick
Town of Frenchville
Town of Greenville
Town of Millinocket
Town of Rumford
Town of Carrabassett Valley
Wells Chamber of Commerce
York Region Chamber of Commerce



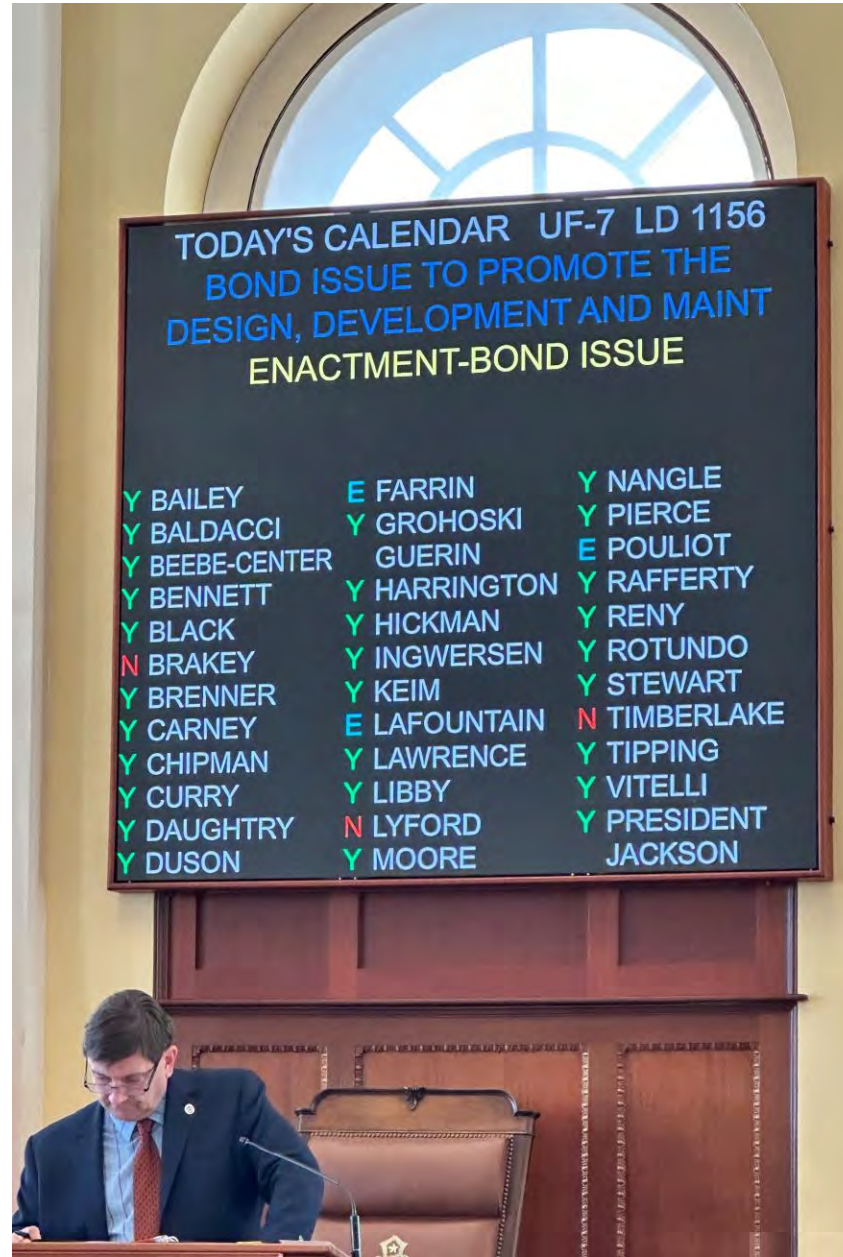


Storm Damage to Maine Trails

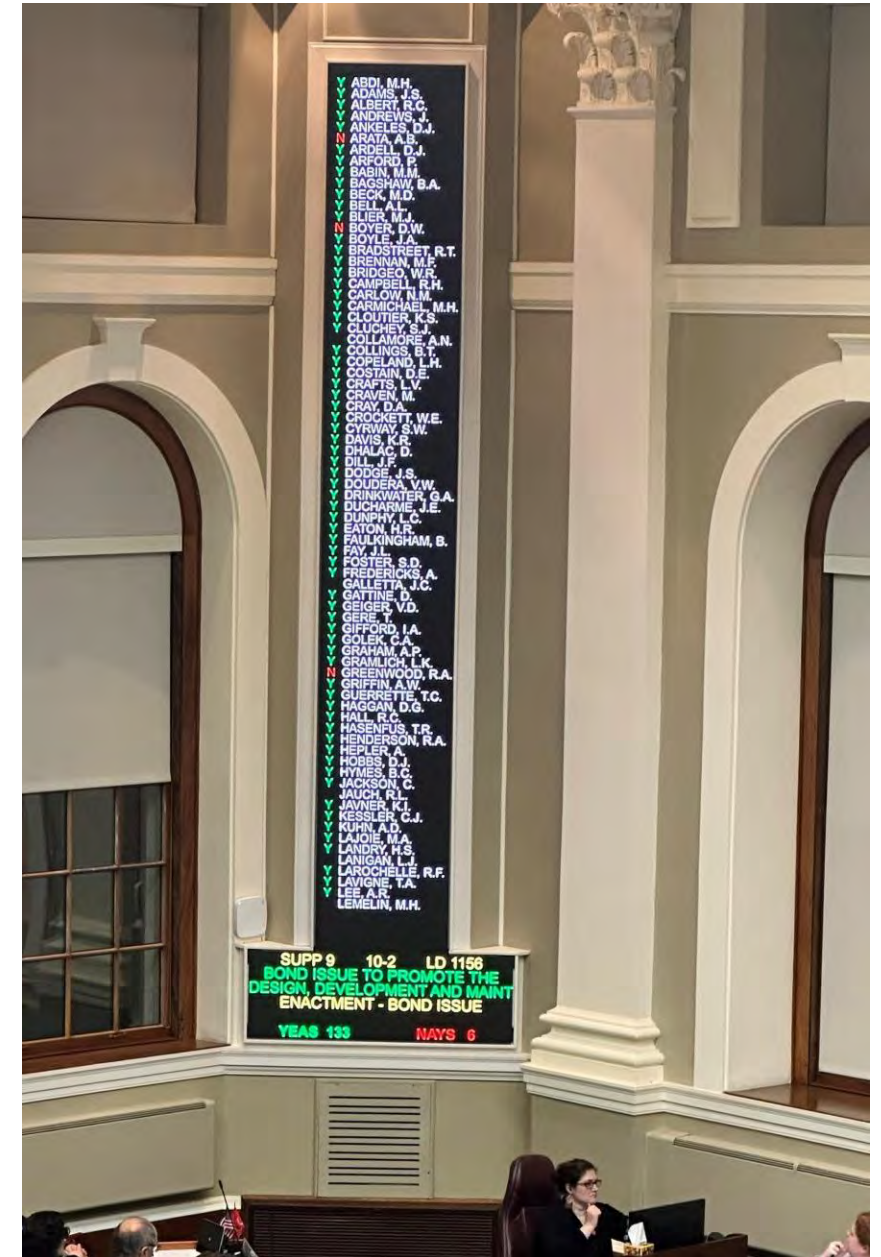




Appropriations: 13-0



Senate: 29-3



House: 133-6





PARTNERSHIP FOR MAINE TRAILS



GET INVOLVED

Vote Yes on Question 4 this November for the future of Maine trails.

TAKE A PLAN TO VOTE

DISTRIBUTE YES ON 4 MATERIALS AT AN UPCOMING EVENT

SHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR IN SUPPORT OF YES

SUPPORT
MAINE
TRAILS
Vote Yes on 4

VOTE YES
ON 4

Support
Maine Trails

SUPPORT
MAINE
TRAILS
Vote Yes on 4



SUPPORT
MAINE
TRAILS
Vote Yes on 4

\$100,000 Campaign Budget

- Digital Toolkit for supporters
- Bumper Stickers
- Website
- Yard Signs
- Placards for Businesses
- 50+ outreach events

VOTE YES
ON 4

Support
Maine Trails

Support
Maine Trails

YES ON 4



- Digital Ads reached more than 260,000 households

- Target Voters
 - Infrequent voters statewide
 - Republican Women in CD-2
 - Outdoor Lifestyle voters

**Hamburger
Group
Creative**

Impressions

4,495,023
(4,364,042)



Video Fully Played

1,187,118
(Previous Day: 1,136,665)



Clicks

7,594
(Previous Day: 7,377)



Video Completion R...

43.55 %
(Previous Day: 43.37 %)



CTR

0.17 %
(Previous Day: 0.17 %)



Maine Voters Approve Trails Bond

Maine voters approve \$30 million trails bond

Maine Public | By Peter McGuire
Published November 6, 2024 at 2:19 PM EST



▶ LISTEN • 0:58



Andrea Carline / Maine Public File

\$30 million bond to revitalize Maine's trail system gets green light from voters

Share   



Updated: 8:23 PM EST Dec 11, 2024

Infinite Scroll Enabled 



Scott McDonnell 
Anchor



NORRIDGEWOCK, Maine — In a major win for outdoor enthusiasts and the state's economy, Mainers have approved a \$30 million bond to fund the design, maintenance and repair of thousands of miles of trails across the state.

MAINE POLITICS

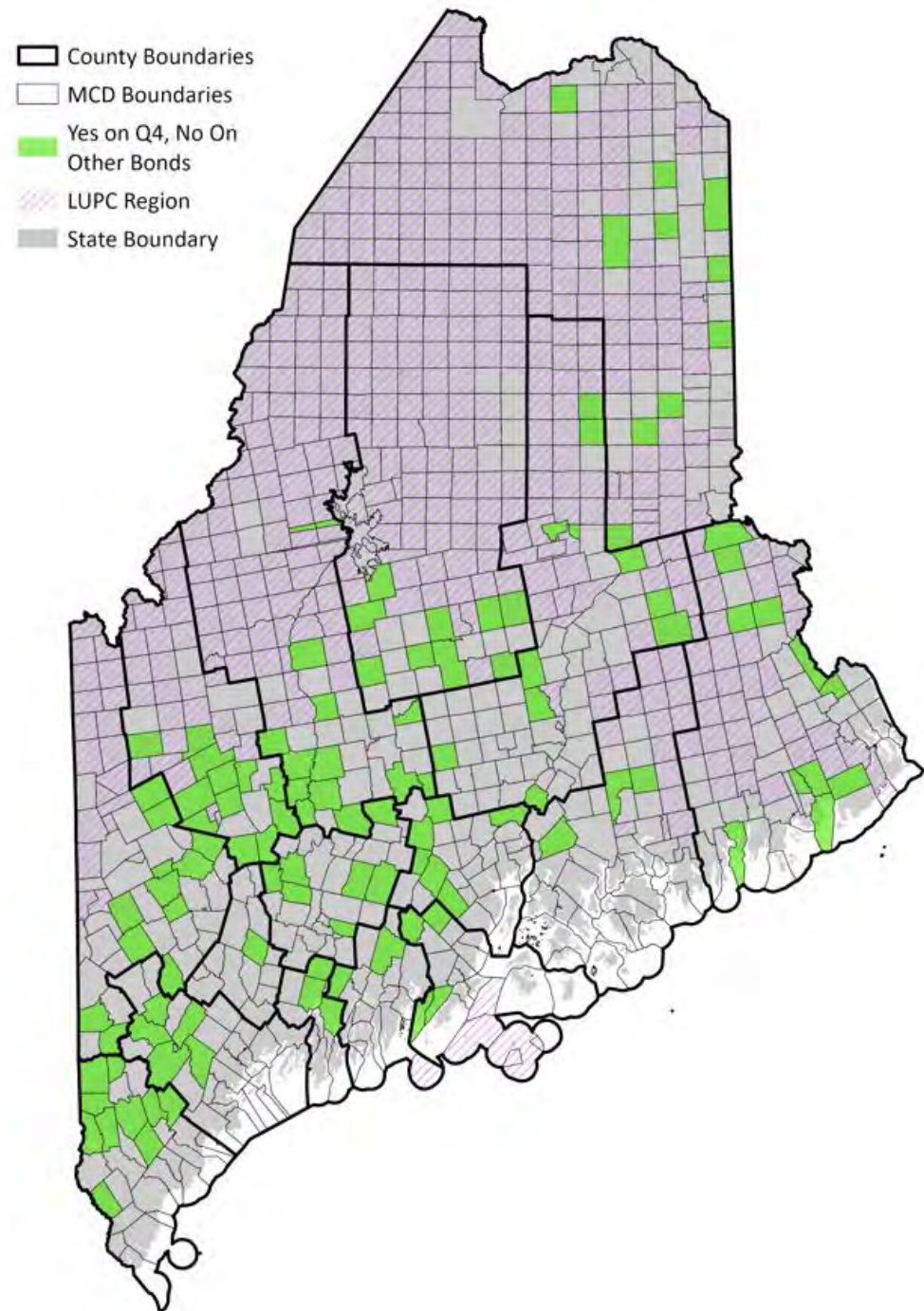
Maine voters approve \$30 million Maine Trails Bond

The funding will be used to support the development and maintenance of motorized, non-motorized, and multi-use trails across the state.



- Trails Bond was the ***only bond that passed*** in 112 towns

The digital ad campaign included target voters in every one of these towns





Maine Trails Program Launched

First Grant Awards Fall 2025



Maine Trails Program

Grant Application for 2025 project start

Grants and Community

124

Au

Chances of funding increase if you read the Program Guidance document before filling out this ap

MTP Grant Overview

ine Trails Program (MTP) is an assistance program of the Bureau of Parks & Lands via Maine's S
The MTP provides funds to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for m
ed recreational trail uses. MTP grants can fund the development and renovation of eligible trails, t
e amenities.

's administered by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry; Bureau of
its and Community Recreation Program.

etailed information about this program please visit <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/about/gr>

num amounts of MTP awards are \$250,000.

igible applicants: Non-profit organizations; Municipal agencies (cities, towns, counties, school d
'e agencies.

MTP grant can fund up to 90 percent of eligible project costs. Project sponsor match can be
i or donated supplies, materials and/or labor.

MTP is a reimbursement program, however accommodations for advanced awards may be n
onstrated need. Alternatively, if a loan is obtained to fund the project, interest payments are
nbursement.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES:

sting Trails: renovation, relocation, bridging, and/or related signage

l must be open to the public.

ipment and/or rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities with a direct relationship to a
ction of new recreational trails, bridges and related signage.

nts to trail access and use for persons with disabilities and/or special needs.

pansion, or improvement of water trails including construction/restoration of boat land

, signage, outhouses, portage trails, campsites, etc.

of new trails on federal land provided the project has been approved by the managin

/.

of smaller trail building equipment, e.g., chainsaws, hand tools, pole trimmers etc, can
xpense.

es may be eligible depending on the need for trail viability.

lk that connects two existing trails may be eligible

gn and engineering costs incurred within 24 months of the project award are eligible as
ie grant amount but are not reimbursable.

PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES NOT ELIGIBLE:

lity Studies, Rail concept planning.

tling of state-owned tracks and ties for non-rail use.

Trails.

orcement.

nstruction, sidewalks*, gardening/landscaping, parks or park equipment, sprinklers, or
nds.

idewalk that connects two existing trails may be eligible.

ri/improvements within a federal, state, county, or town road right-of-way.

*Intern positions not related to a specific MTP-funded project/program.



Grants and Community Recreation

For Immediate Release

October 9, 2025

Strong Sixteen County Response to Maine Trails Program Grant Opportunity

AUGUSTA — The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) has received 105 applications for the first round of the newly established [Maine Trails Program](#) (MTP) grant cycle, reflecting the trail community's commitment to outdoor recreation. Municipalities, land trusts, ATV and snowmobile clubs, and nonprofit organizations submitted proposals seeking a combined \$16.7 million in funding, more than double the \$7.5 million available this year.

Applications were submitted from all 16 counties and represent a broad range of trail users and communities. Multi-use projects led the way, accounting for 46 applications and more than half of the total funding requested, followed by 28 motorized and 31 non-motorized trail proposals. Projects include major renovation efforts to create new recreational trails, expand trail accessibility, improve infrastructure for all-season recreation, and protect Maine's natural landscapes.

*"As remarkable as this level of requests is, it is not surprising. We recognize that Maine's outdoor recreation infrastructure is in high demand and requires significant investment, **commented Bureau of Parks and Lands Director Andy Cutko.***

"This first round of applications strongly suggests that the full \$30M for trails will be committed to viable projects by the four-year goal. We look forward to working with grantees to implement exciting projects in every corner of Maine and for every type of trail user."

MAINE NEWS

Maine groups beating a path to millions in limited trails funding

Maine's new \$30 million trails program has drawn 105 proposals requesting over twice the first-year \$7.5 million allocation.

Posted October 10

Joe Charpentier
Staff Writer



Listen to this article now
Powered by Trinity Audio

00:00

05:55

4 min read Font size +

3 Gift Article Print Share





SUPPORT MAINE TRAILS

Vote Yes on 4

Paid for by Partnership for Maine Trails, 3 Wade Street, Augusta, ME 04330

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Vote Yes on 4

Paid for by Partnership for Maine Trails, 3 Wade Street, Augusta, ME 04330

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**WILLIAM
MURDOCK**



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMISSION

**Central
Ohio is
growing.**

**We've been
planning for
growth.**

**Let's grow
better as we
get bigger.**



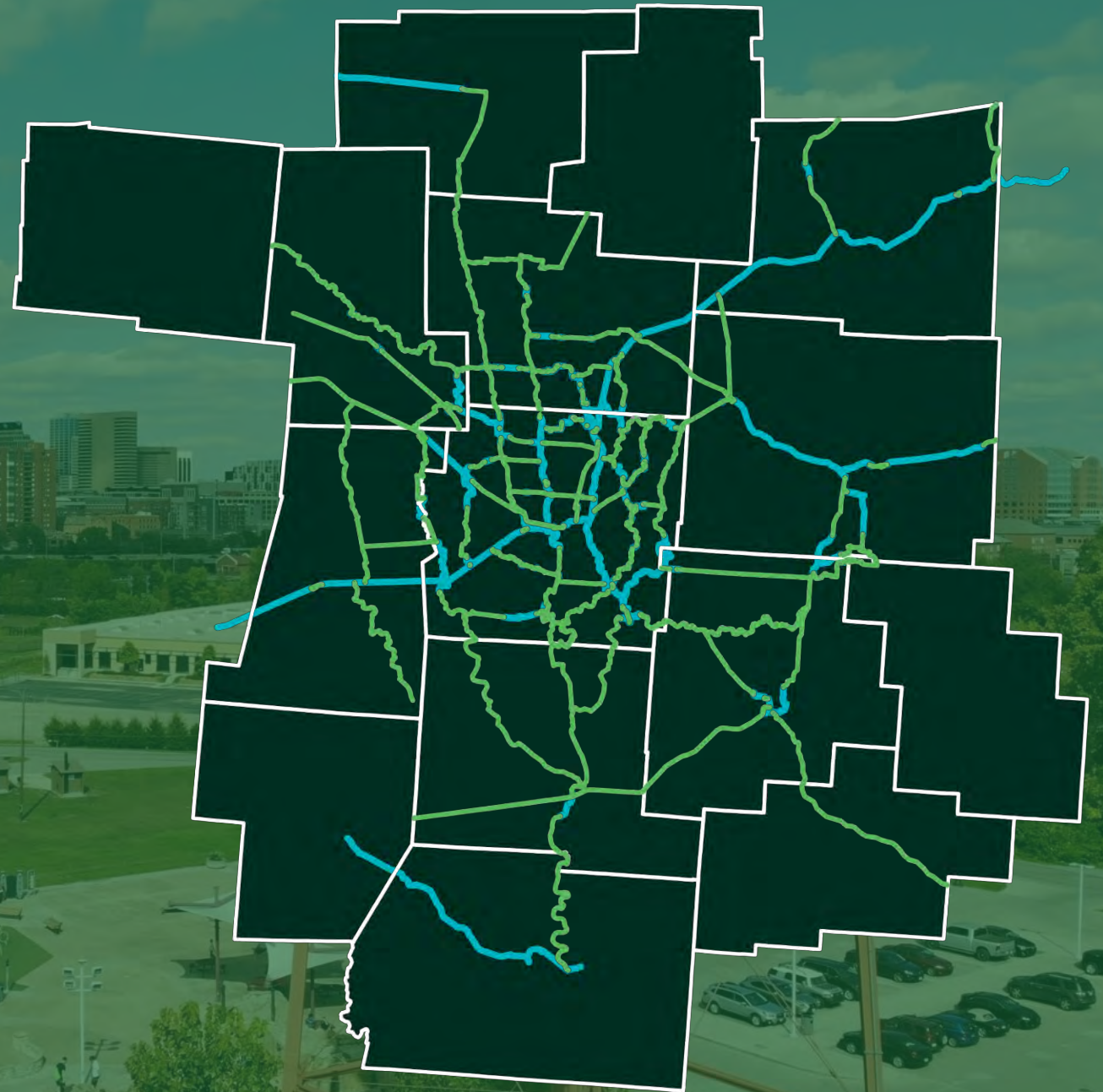
MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION



TrailNation

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS



Existing COG Multi-Use Path



Future COG Trails



GREENWAY PLANNING STUDIO

*Inspiring our communities to **boldly and collaboratively envision** a vibrant Central Ohio, seamlessly connected by accessible, safe, and welcoming greenspaces, and identifying **actionable pathways** to bring the visions alive for all Central Ohioans.*

Greenways
Planning Studio

(GPS)



Regional Collaboration

Technical Assistance

GIS Database Host

Greenway Studio Fellowships



REGIONAL TRAILS



RAPID
5



MORPC TRAIL TOWN FRAMEWORK

- Mount Vernon
- Centerburg
- Sunbury
- Westerville
- Easton
- Bexley
- Columbus Neighborhoods
- London





LinkUS Transit Supportive Infrastructure Program

More COTA
More Sidewalks
More Opportunity

COTA

Franklin County
BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

MID-DAVIE REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

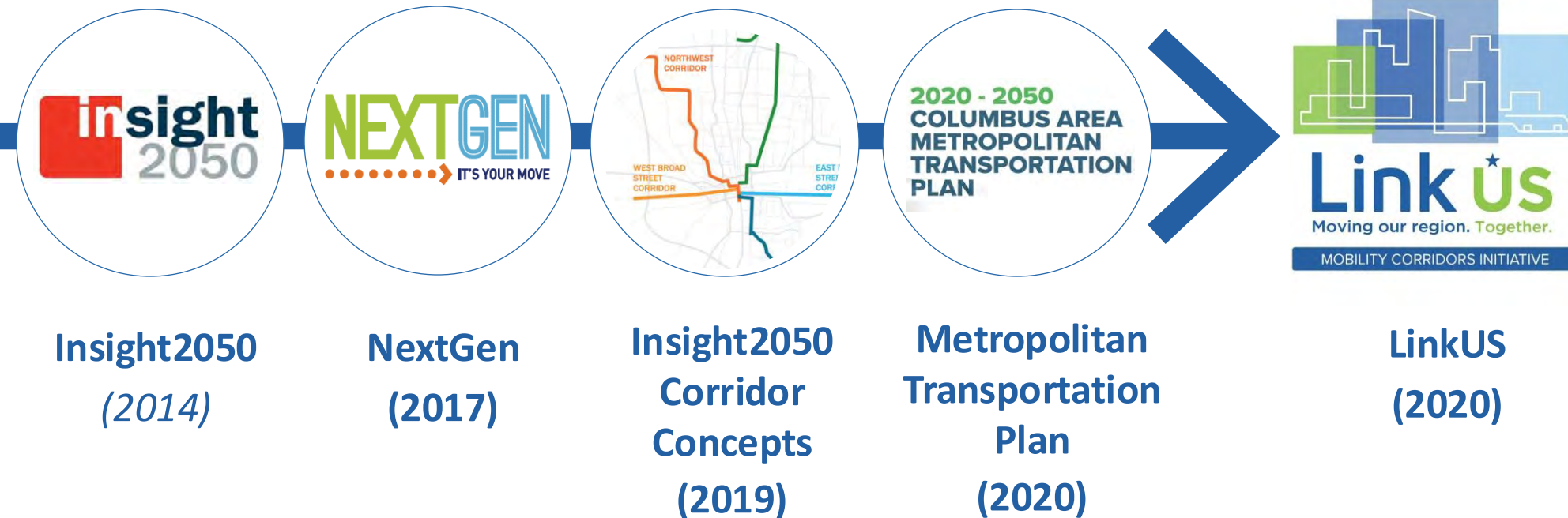
THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW S. GAYLES, MAYOR

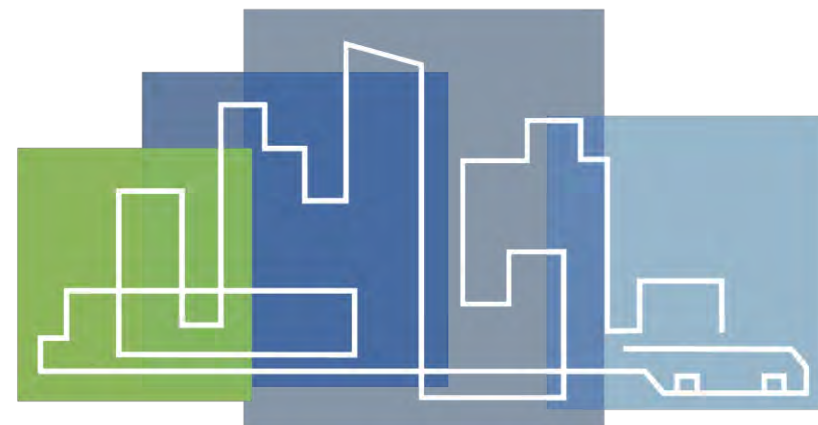
COLUMBUS
PARTNERSHIP



Link ^{us}
Moving our region. Together.

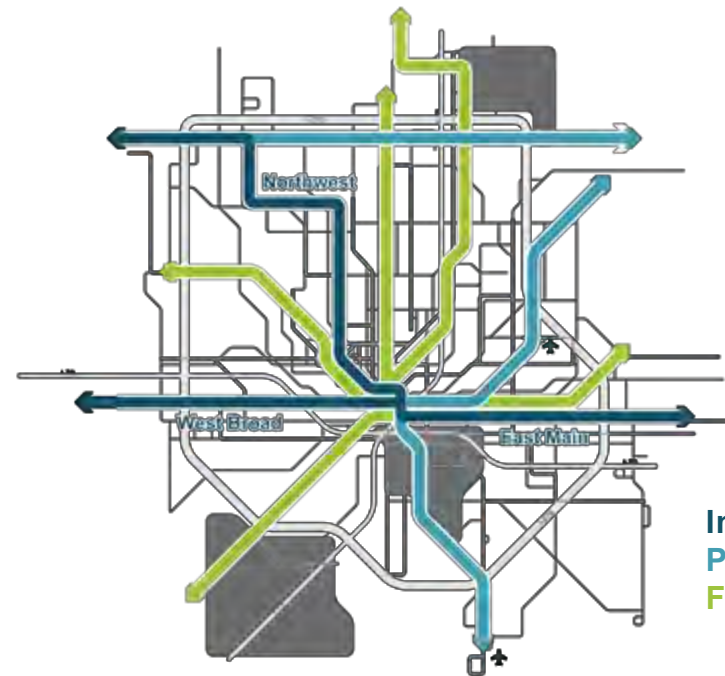
From Planning to Implementation





Link **us**
Moving our region. Together.

2050 REGIONAL TRANSIT VISION



In Progress
Planned for Near-term Study
Future Study

EXISTING

Transit Service



8 New
COTA//Plus
Zones



14

New or
Improved
Transit Lines



5

Rapid
Transit Lines



45%

More
Service

SIDEWALKS, BIKEWAYS, TRAILS

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY



96% of COTA customers walk or bike to the bus

27.5% of COTA's 0.5% sales tax increase dedicated to transit-supportive infrastructure

~ \$60 million annually

500+ miles of sidewalks, bikeways & trails by 2050

BY THE NUMBERS

2026-2030 TSI CIP



83 PROJECTS
\$262M (2024 \$)

150+	MILES OF IMPROVEMENTS
35	JURISDICTIONS
55	MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL PROJECTS
65	PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION BY 2030
140,000	ADDITIONAL PEOPLE WITHIN A 10-15 MIN WALK OR BIKE RIDE
44,000	ADDITIONAL JOBS WITHIN A 10-15 MIN WALK OR BIKE RIDE

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**RYAN
CHAO**



RAILS TO TRAILS CONSERVANCY

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