



TrailNation

SUMMIT

Hosted by **Rails to Trails Conservancy**



Washington's Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail



Alabama's Aldridge Creek Greenway



Vermont's Lamoille Valley Rail-Trail



Indiana's Monon Trail



Missouri's Katy Trail



Business Along Maryland's C&O Canal Towpath



Trails are essential to people, places and the planet

90%

of people say that it is important that everyone have access to trails.

88%

of people say that tax dollars should be spent on maintaining and improving trails.

61%

of people say they would like to spend more time on the trail.

ROI of Active Transportation

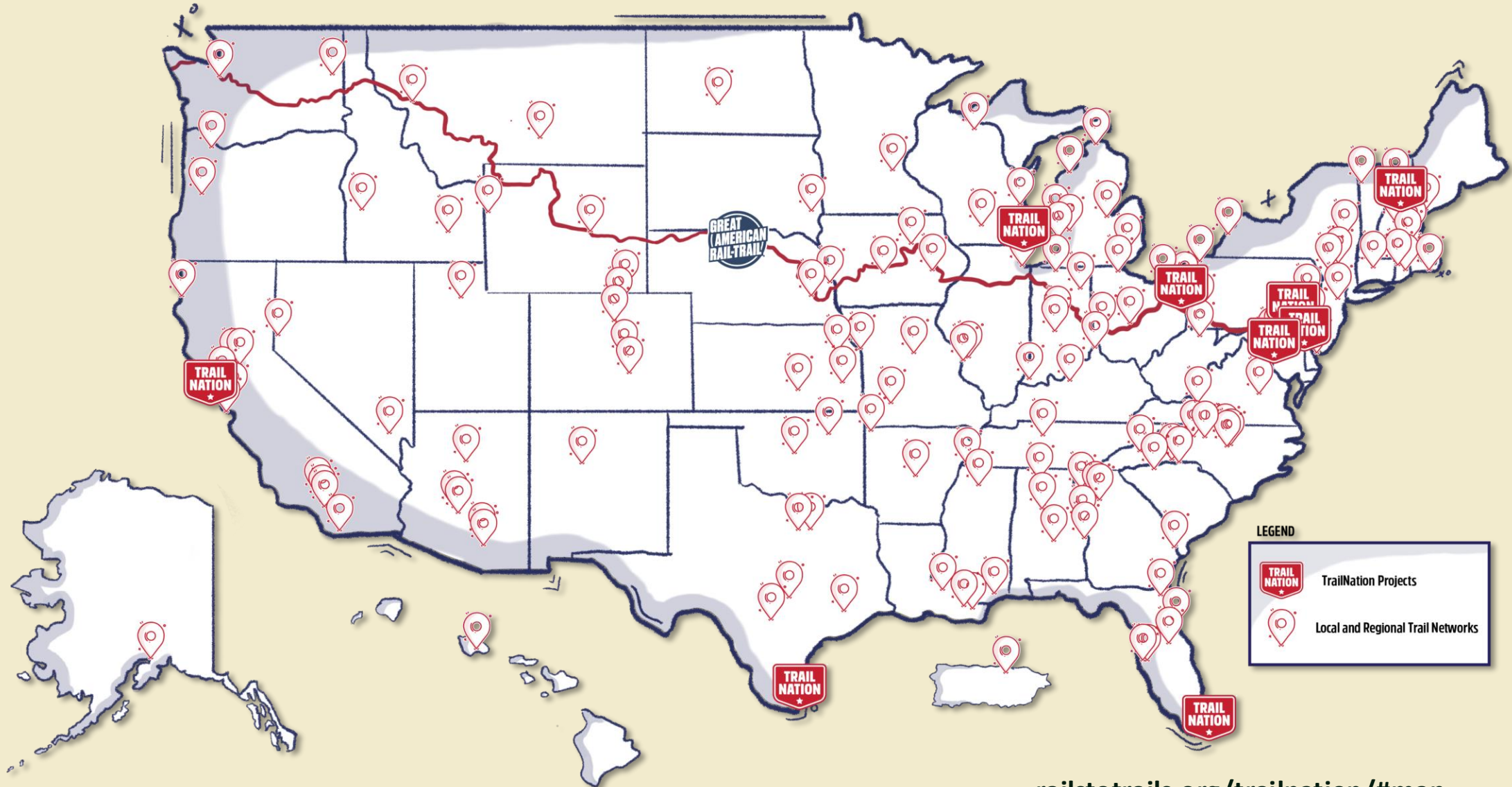
- U.S. economic impact = **\$34.1 billion** (potential \$138.5 billion)
- CO2 reductions = **13 million tons** (potential 54 million tons)
- Local spending impact = **\$10.6 billion** (potential \$21 billion)
- Health cost savings = **\$20 billion** (potential \$92 billion)

RailsToTrails.org/ATTA



Alabama's Shades Creek Greenway

America's Trail Networks

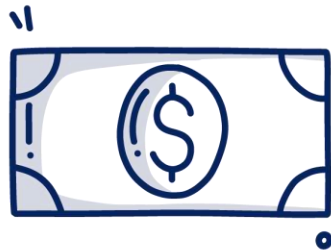


railstotrails.org/trailnation/#map

The Potential of Connected Trails



TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS



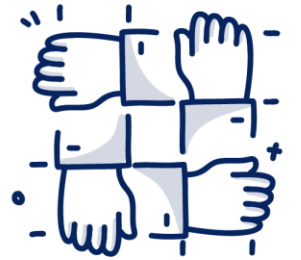
**STRONG BUSINESSES
AND ECONOMIES**



A THRIVING ENVIRONMENT



**OPPORTUNITIES FOR
HEALTH AND WELLNESS**



EQUITABLE ACCESS

Bloomberg

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By [Ted Mann](#)

September 22, 2025 at 12:56 PM EDT



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WUWM 89.7 FM | By [Chuck Quirnbach](#)

Published April 25, 2025 at 10:38 AM CDT



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Cheryl Blue, executive director of the 30th Street Industrial Corridor Corp., and Willie Karidis, project director at Route of the Badger, Rails to Trails Conservancy, stand on a bridge at 30th and Galena Streets, above the planned recreational trail corridor.

Pragmatic, Future Focused

- Leverage momentum of robust investment, full project pipeline and pro-trail culture shift—people power
- Build upon bipartisan popularity, ubiquity of movement, and long-term strategy
- Pursue federal, state and local opportunities to maximize impact (e.g., ballot measures)
- Deploy right messengers and messages to meet moment



Washington D.C's Met Branch Trail

What We Need Now

- **A unified message to shift the narrative.** Trail networks are essential—for mobility, the economy and our lives.
- **Showcasing broad leadership** for trails and active transportation nationwide—this **IS** a non-partisan issue
- **Spotlighting stories of impact** on topics that carry weight (e.g., jobs, economic impact, tourism, health, safety, quality of life)
- **Being persistent and pervasive** in our outreach and our messaging across the board—to our elected leaders, Congress, in the media and in our own personal and social networks.



North Carolina Senator Thom Tillis with a veteran riding the Great American Rail-Trail at the U.S. Capitol.



The Virginia Creeper Trail | Courtesy Metayel

We don't just love the trails. We need them. We also need visitors and their faith in our recovery. The Virginia Creeper Trail attracts more than 200,000 hikers and bikers a year with vacation money to spend in Abingdon lodges and businesses. ... We're not giving up, so please don't give up on us.

Barbara Kingsolver, Southern Living April 2025