

Trails = \$\$\$

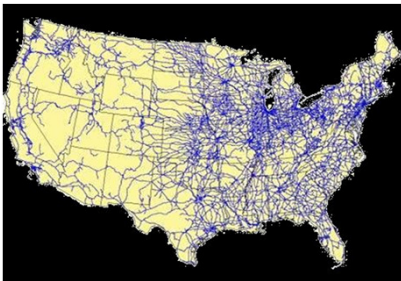


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Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Midwest Policy Manager
September 19, 2016

Topics of Discussion

- Amazing Progress
 - National Picture & RTC
 - Economic Benefits
- Applied Policy Strategies
 - FAST Act & Other Funding Sources
 - National Trail Town Program
- RTC's Trail Policy Tools
 - T-MAP Suite
 - Policy-In-Action Strategies
- Q&A

Opportunity



U.S. Rail Network:
275,000 miles at the height



Voice of a Movement

- 1986, RTC founded, <250 miles of rail-trail
- 2014, >22,000 miles of rail-trail
- 160,000+ members and supporters



What We DO

We transform unused rail corridors into vibrant public spaces that engage, inspire and empower communities.



Our Take On Policy

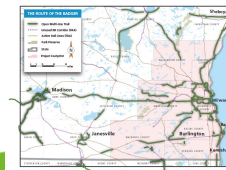
Active transportation—human-powered mobility such as walking & bicycling—increases physical activity, provides balanced transportation choices & fosters economically vibrant communities with high quality of life.

Why Trails?

- Economic Development & Job Creation
- Health
- Community Connections
- Mobility
- Inclusion & Accessibility
- Environmental Protection

Where Are We Now?

- 22,389 miles of trail!
- Focus on networks
- Potential for 8,438 more miles of trail



Not Always Easy!

- NIMBY - Not In My Back Yard
- CAVE - Citizens Against Virtually Everything
- BANANA - Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anything

Transportation Potential

- 1/2 trips taken in America are under a 20-min bike ride (3 Miles), 1/4 under 20-min walk (1 Mile).
- 30% traffic increase during school start/end.
- 50% walked/biked to school in 1969, 14% in 2004.
- 28% of trips in Minneapolis include walking/biking.
- Hundreds of millions of miles traveled on trails.

Equity

Trails provide a mode of traveling for people who cannot drive or do not own an automobile.

- 10 million+ US households do not own an automobile (2009)
- 40% of US adults cannot or do not drive (U.S. Census)

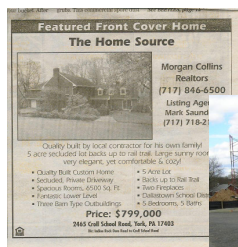


CYBB Trail, Valley, AL

Economic Impact

- Recent Great Allegheny Passage studies have found \$50 million in annual direct spending attributed to the trail, up from \$7.26 million in 2002. Also, \$7.5 million in annual wages.
- Outer Banks of North Carolina study found that the annual impact of cycling there is more than nine times the one time cost of building the facilities!
- Bicycle recreation currently supports more than \$924 million in tourism and resident spending each year, of which nearly \$533 million is direct impact occurring annually, such as travel, equipment sales and restaurant expenditures.

Property Values



Health Care Savings

36% adults are overweight & 23% are obese
78% of kids don't exercise 30 minutes per day
Less than half of Americans get 30 minutes of exercise daily

Per capita annual cost of using trails is \$209 (\$59 construction & maintenance, \$150 equipment & travel). Per capita annual direct medical benefit of using trails is \$564.



\$1 trail investment = \$2.94 medical benefit

Applied Policy

- The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act
- Other Funding Opportunities
- National Trail Town Program
- RTC Legislative Policy Center

FAST Act Highlights

- Transportation Alternatives (TAP) increases
 - 5-year funding – \$820M to \$835M to \$850M
- Transportation Infrastructure Finance & Innovation Act (TIFIA) expanded
 - Minimum threshold lowered to \$10M
 - Segments of trail network can be bundled
 - Streamlined application process – \$2M per year to defray application costs
 - Capitalize State Infrastructure Banks

What Does TAP Fund?

- Planning
- Design
- Construction
- **Wayfinding Signage**



Build Now & Reap the Benefits

- TIFIA is a newly accessible federal financing tool to help communities to more quickly complete their trail and active transportation networks.
- Provides low-interest federal loans and other credit assistance.
- Learn More at railstotrails.org.

TIFIA Priorities

- Project of Regional Significance
- Impact on Environment
- Significance to Transportation System
- Generation of Economic Benefit
- Leverage Private Capital
- Promote Innovative Technology

TIFIA In A Trail Context



Riverwalk Expansion

- Designed to improve transportation along an important corridor and enhance safety for pedestrians with bicycle paths & pedestrian trails along the continuous promenade.
- The leveraging of innovative financing streams generated by the project to advance the final phases

Other Funding Sources

- **Recreational Trails Program - \$1.6M in 2016**
Provides funds to states to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both nonmotorized and motorized recreational trail uses. The RTP is a program of the Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).
- **Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) - \$500M (nationwide) in 2016**
This grant program funds capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure and targets projects that will have a significant impact on the nation, a metropolitan area or a region with a focus on capital projects that generate economic development and improve access to reliable, safe & affordable transportation for urban & rural communities.

Trail Town USA



- Focus on trail tourism for community/economic development.
- Ensure that trail communities and businesses maximize economic potential of the regional trails.
- Address trail-wide issues and opportunities through regional collaboration.
- Since 2007, 93 new trail-related businesses opened in Trail Towns on the GAP, most kept doors open.

Trails Mean Business!

The Progress Fund has established these program goals:

- Retain, expand and increase revenues of existing businesses
- Recruit sustainable new businesses
- Facilitate collective action by the Trail Towns to create a world class recreational destination
- Improve the buildings and infrastructure in each town to create a visitor friendly destination



Outdoor Recreation is Major

Americans spend a great deal on outdoor recreation.

A 2006 Outdoor Industry Foundation study found that "Active Outdoor Recreation" contributes \$730 billion annually to the U.S. economy, supports 6.5 million jobs, and generates \$88 billion in annual state and national tax revenue.



Economic Activity in Many Forms

There are many ways that trails and greenways affect the local and national economies, including:

- Tourism
- Events
- Urban redevelopment
- Community improvement
- Property value
- Health care savings
- Jobs and investment
- General consumer spending



RTC's Trail Policy Tools

- Trail Traffic Modeling
- T-MAP Suite
- Economic Impact

Trail Traffic Modeling

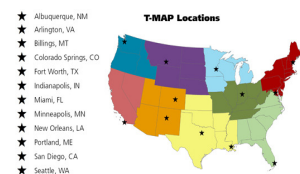
- Efficient, accurate way to track trail traffic
- Baseline counts to enable tracking trends over time
- Enable coalition partners access to hardware to conduct counts locally moving forward



T-MAP

Trail Modeling and Assessment Platform

- **GIS-based** method measures trail connectivity
- **Modeling tool** forecasts trail-use demand
- **Impact assessment tools** translate trail use into dollars related to health and transportation



www.railstotrails.org/TMAP

The Suite

- Go Counter App (Trail Score)
- Trail Travel Forecaster
- BikeAble™ Connectivity Analysis
- Equity Analysis
- Health Savings Calculator
- Transportation Calculator

Policy-In-Action Strategies

- Trail Hub Alliance
- Sojourns / Bipartisan Bike Rides
- Trail\$ App



Happy Trails!



ITS Comes To The Midwest!



Call for Submissions!

Theme: "Trails Take Flight – Connecting People, Places & Possibilities"

Topic areas:

- Trail Planning, Development and Building
- Trail Management
- Trail Policy
- Technology
- Community Development
- Communications Strategy
- Inclusion
- Network

Submit proposals online by December 9, 2016:

surveymonkey.com/r/95F3BPZ

Questions?

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