

Trails as Active Transportation: A National Policy Update



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National Policy Opportunities for Trails

- Energy bill
- Climate bill
- Transportation bill
- Economic Stimulus (ARRA)



Presentation Outline



- *What is the Active Transportation campaign & how can it benefit trails?*
- *How can my community benefit from the campaign?*
- *Economic stimulus money for trails in CA*

Perspectives on Active Transportation



- ❖ I enjoy long walks, especially when they're taken by people who annoy me.
- ❖ He's developing a more active lifestyle. Now he sits and watches aerobics shows on television.



The Big Vision

By 2020: Establish trail systems within three miles of 90% of Americans

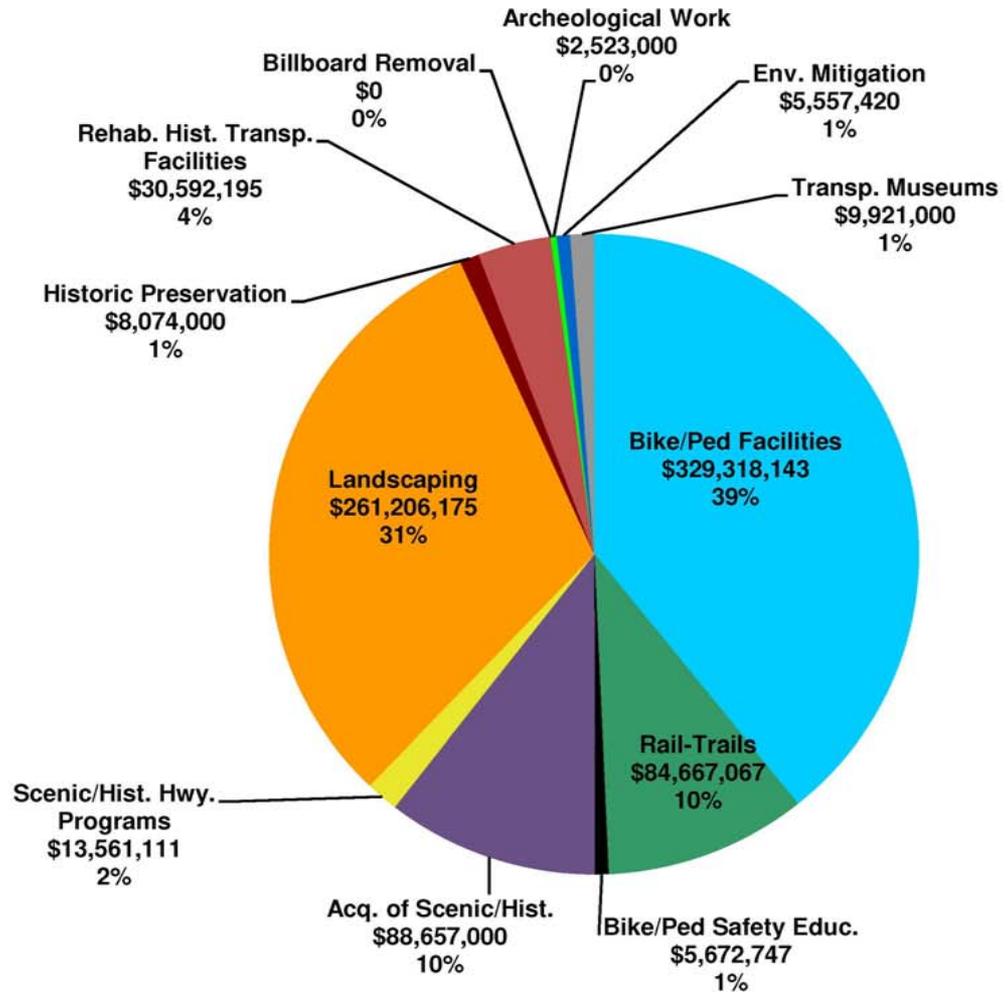
By 2010: Double federal funding for trails, biking and walking



California

Transportation Enhancements Program

FY 1992-2007
Federal Share



Federal Share: \$839,749,857 **Projects: 1297**



Active Transportation Program

- \$2 billion national program
- 40 communities @ \$50 million each
- Targeted federal investment to shift trips from driving to biking/walking

What is **Active Transportation**?

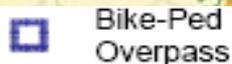


Non-motorized Transportation Pilot Program (NTPP)

- Victory in Congress - 2005 (SAFETEA-LU)
- Created NTPP
 - \$100M: shift to biking & walking
 - Marin, Columbia Minn., Sheboygan
- Funds projects & programs



Portland, Maine: Multi-modal links to downtown



Bike-Ped
Overpass



Trail/
Pathway



Active Transport
Corridor



Active
Transport Center



Bike Blvd



Bike / Ped -
On-street



Revitalized
'Great Street'

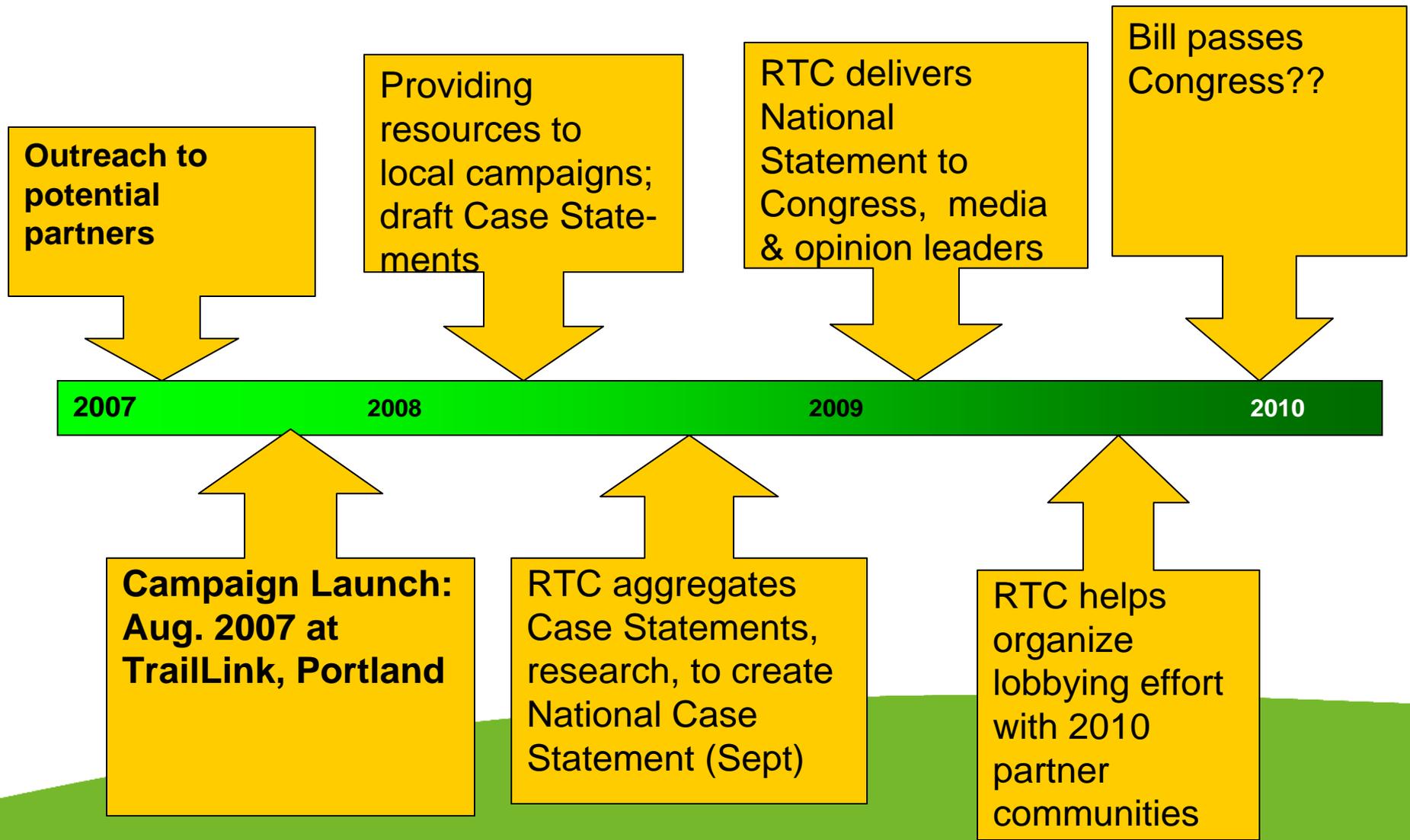


Bike-Park & Ride
Transit Center

Partner Communities

- Nationally: more than 50
 - California: five partners
 - Alameda County
 - Humboldt County
 - Marin County
 - Sacramento metro area
 - San Diego County
- 

2010 Campaign Timeline

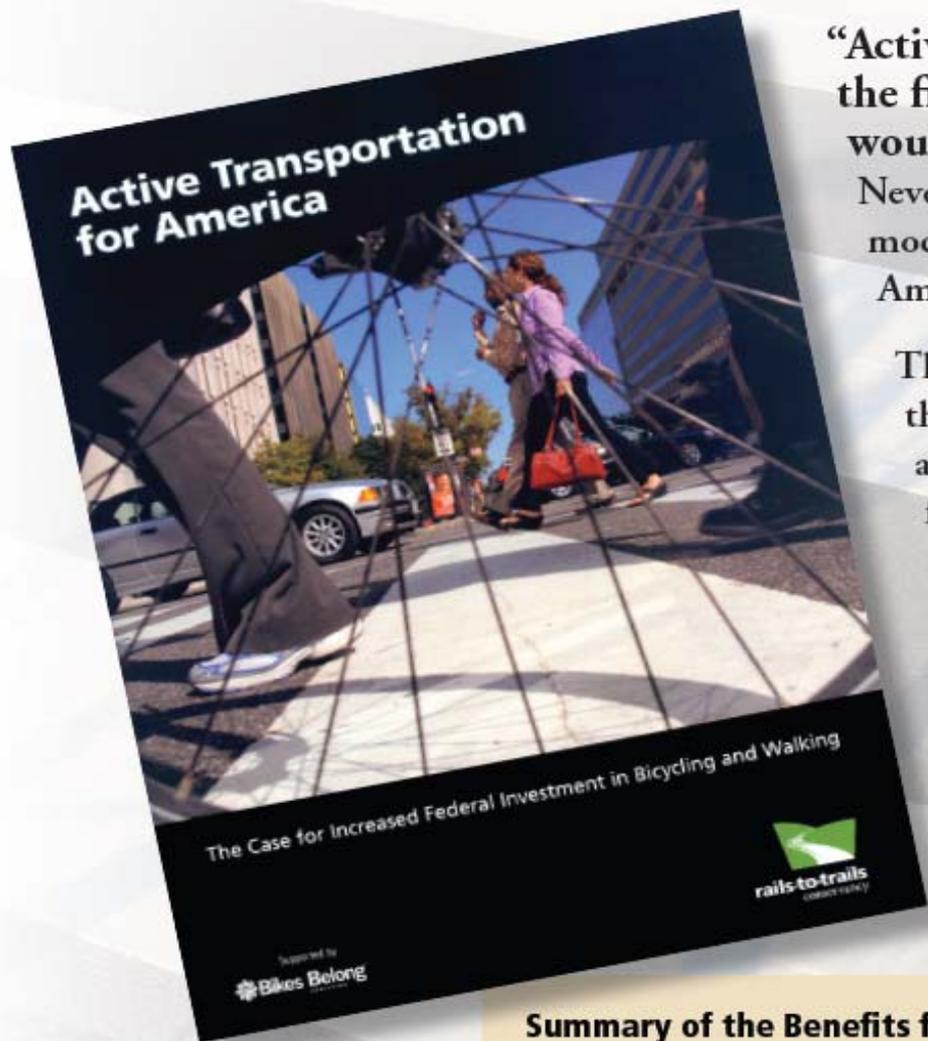


How Can My Community Benefit from the AT Campaign?

The screenshot shows the website for the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's 2010 Campaign for Active Transportation. The page features a navigation menu with links for 'who we are', 'what we do', 'where we work', 'what you can do', and 'news and publications'. The main content area is titled 'The 2010 Campaign for Active Transportation' and includes a photograph of a cyclist on the Capital Crescent Trail in Bethesda, MD. Below the photo is a section titled 'Making the Case' with a list of five issue briefs: Mobility, Economic Development, Climate, Family and Community, and Health. A sidebar on the left contains links for 'trail building', 'trail advocacy', '2010 Campaign', 'action alerts', 'trail funding', 'resources', 'trail funding', 'partnerships', and 'rail-trail info'. At the bottom, there are links for 'Other 2010 Resources', including a 'Campaign Brochure New!' and a 'Campaign Guidance Document New!'.

- **Great resources for trail advocates**
 - National Case Statement
 - Community vision plans
 - Media kits
 - Issue briefs
- **Raising the profile of trails**

www.railstotrails.org/2010



“Active Transportation for America” quantifies for the first time the profound benefits our nation would see with increased walking and bicycling.

Never before has the case been made so clearly that relatively modest federal investment in bicycling and walking can save Americans tens of billions of dollars each year.

The report pulls success stories from communities across the country that are actively engaged in improving their active transportation networks. These stories come from community case statements that are part of their participation in Rails-to-Trails Conservancy’s 2010 Campaign for Active Transportation.

For more about the report, including access to case-making graphs, summaries and opportunities to take action, visit the report Web site:

www.railstotrails.org/ATFA

For more information, contact: Thomas Gotschi (thomas@railstotrails.org)

Summary of the Benefits from Bicycling and Walking Quantified in this Report

- This report provides quantitative assessments and an overall estimation of the monetary value of the benefits of current and future bicycling and walking in the United States.
- The main premise of the analysis is that short trips of three miles or less, which currently make for about half of all trips taken in the United States, can, to some extent, be shifted from driving to bicycling and walking.

Benefits from bicycling and walking are quantified in the areas:

- transportation
- oil dependence
- climate change
- public health

Report Highlights

Cross-cutting issue:

transportation, oil dependence, climate change,
health, saving money

Opportunity:

Half of all trips = 20 minute bike ride;
One-quarter all trips = 20 minute walk

Dramatic Economic Benefits:

Modest increase in biking/walking (to 13%) = \$10.4 billion
savings/year;

More substantial increase (to 25%) = \$65.9 billion/year

March 17, 2005

The New York Times

“For the first time in two centuries, the current generation of children in America may have shorter life expectancies than their parents, according to a new report, which contends that the rapid rise in childhood obesity, if left unchecked, could shorten life spans by as much as five years.”

Children's Life Expectancy Being Cut Short By Obesity



40% of greenhouse gas emissions in California come from transportation, mostly autos



Transportation Choices: This?

Regular	A . R M	$\frac{9}{10}$
Plus	L . E G	$\frac{9}{10}$
Supreme	1 ST . BORN	$\frac{9}{10}$
Self		

What's the **Plan?**

Or this...



August 25, 2008

Bay Area Commuters Moving Beyond Cars



Paul Chinn / The Chronicle

Bicyclists on Market Street head toward downtown San Francisco. The Market Street corridor has seen a big jump bike commuting.

*“In San Francisco, a traffic count by the MTA in July found that during a one-hour stretch of the morning commute, there were **more bicycles than cars, taxis, buses and streetcars** heading eastbound on Market Street.”*

“There's been a significant shift to bicycles for commuting. I don't think anyone could stand on the sidewalk during the commute and not notice it.”

To Learn More...

Active Transportation Campaign website:
www.railstotrails.org/2010

Contact us:

Western Region Office: 415-814-1100

laura@railstotrails.org



Economic Stimulus \$ for Trails

- Victory in ARRA - \$800M for TE
- California - \$75M; priority given to:
 - 1st Conservation corps
 - 2nd Bike, pedestrian
- Tight deadlines; projects must be “shovel-ready”



Finding \$ for your projects

- Contact regional transportation agency – when is next TE call for projects?
- Caltrans ARRA website:
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/Recovery/>

Get Involved with Rails-to-Trails

- Sign up for RTC's online network
 - Campaign news
 - Opportunities to take action
 - How?
 - Provide your email on today's sign-in list
 - Drop your business card at back of room
 - Go to www.railstotrails.org/whatwedo/actionalerts
 - Become a member of RTC
- 

*The longest journey begins
with a single step.*

-- Attributed to Lao-tzu
(c 604-c 531 bc), founder of Taoism

