



rails-to-trails
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**Trail Funding in the New Congress:
Threats & Opportunities**

*California Trails & Greenways Conference
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Session Outline

LAURA COHEN:

- *How have trails benefited from the federal transportation bill? What's at stake in the current Congress?*
- *RTC's Active Transportation Campaign*

DAN DAWSON:

Building a countywide trail system with the Non-motorized Transportation Pilot Program and beyond

RANDY RENTSCHLER:

Opportunities & threats - politics of transportation bill reauthorization in the current Congress

Laura's Presentation Outline



1. *How have trails benefited from the federal transportation bill?*
2. *From projects to networks: evolution of "Active Transportation"*
3. *Threats & Opportunities in Current Congress*
4. *RTC Web resources, contact info*

Notes:

CA share of annual funding from key programs (2008 figures from Caltrans):

- Recreational Trails Program: \$2.5 million
- Safe Routes to School – federal share \$23 mill for 2009)
- Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ)- \$360
- Transportation Enhancements (TE): \$75 million

1. Trails & the Federal Transportation Bill

Where are we in the reauthorization process?

SAFETEA-LU expired
9-30-09

1. Trails & the Federal Transportation Bill

From FY99 – 2010,
California's total federal
funding for bicycle &
pedestrian programs &
facilities =
\$557M



1. Trails & the Federal Transportation Bill



Key federal funding programs for trails in CA (\$ = federal funding since 1993)

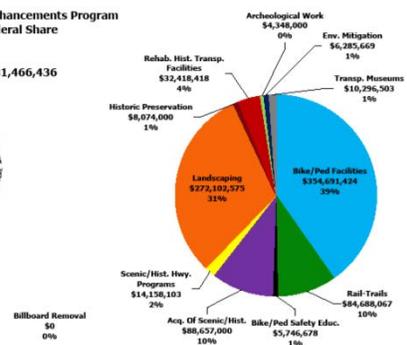
- Transportation Enhancements (TE): \$445 million for trails/bike/ped categories
- Recreational Trails Program: \$43M

Programs that partly fund trails:

- Safe Routes to School: \$67.5M
- Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ)

California Transportation Enhancements Program FY 1992-2008 Federal Share

Federal Total: \$881,466,436
Projects: 1330



1. Trails & the Federal Transportation Bill

Federally- Funded Trail Projects in CA

- Iron Horse Trail – Alameda & Contra Costa counties
- Bayshore Bikeway – San Diego
- San Francisco Bay Trail
- Multiple trails in Marin County, including the Cal Park tunnel
- El Dorado path connection to American River Bikeway (\$1M SRTS)

*Hundreds of projects & programs;
millions of users per year*

2. From Projects to Networks:

Evolution of Active Transportation

- Connectivity – linking trails to other bicycle-pedestrian facilities
- Transportation focus



Portland, Maine: Multi-modal links to downtown



2. From Projects to Networks: RTC's Active Transportation Campaign

Blumenauer bill: Active Communities Transportation Act (ACT Act)

- \$2 billion national program
- Competitive grants: \$25-\$75 million per community over 5 years
- Targeted investment to create A.T. networks and shift trips from driving to biking/walking

What is Active Transportation?

AT =  +  +  + You

2. From Projects to Networks Making the Case for Trails & AT



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

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Active Transportation for America: Report Highlights

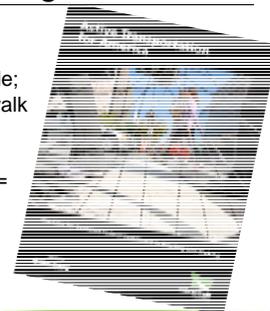
Opportunity:

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

Dramatic Economic Benefits:

Increase in biking/walking to 13% =
\$10.4 billion savings/yr;

Increase to 25% = **\$65.9 billion/yr**



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3. Threats & Opportunities in the Current Congress

Threats:

- 2010 election changed leadership in House; lost Oberstar as champion
- Smaller govt. mandate = smaller transportation bill

Opportunities:

- Sen. Boxer retained chairmanship of EPW
- Active Transportation investments are cheaper and cost-effective



Contact Us

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