

Beyond the Beaten Path: Planning and Funding User-Friendly Trail Projects for any Corps Program

February 2020



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration



USDOT Strategic Plan Goals for FY 2018-2022

Safety

- Reduce Transportation-Related Fatalities and Serious Injuries Across the Transportation System.

Infrastructure

- Invest in Infrastructure to Ensure Mobility and Accessibility and to Stimulate Economic Growth, Productivity, and Competitiveness for American Workers and Businesses.

Innovation

- Lead in the Development and Deployment of Innovative Practices and Technologies that Improve the Safety and Performance of the Nation's Transportation System.

Accountability

- Serve the Nation with Reduced Regulatory Burden and Greater Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Accountability.

Connecting Communities: Integrating Transportation and Recreation

- We can connect and integrate transportation and recreation infrastructure.
- Trails: spines for transportation networks.
- Transportation and Recreation isn't either/or!



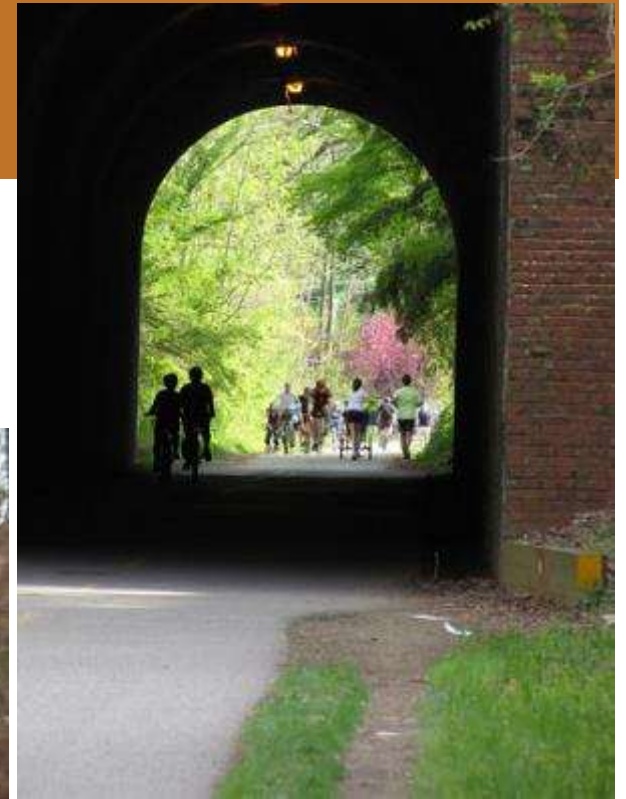
Bridges and Tunnels: Essential Links for Networks

- Long life spans: Plan for future demand, use, and reuse.
- Bridges connect communities.



Bridges and Tunnels: Essential Links for Networks

- Reconnect communities.
- Tunnels and underpasses.



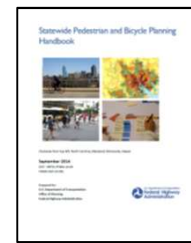
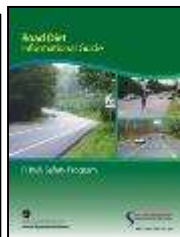
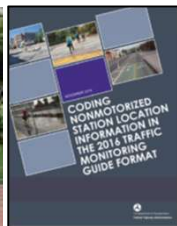
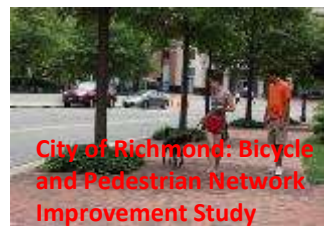
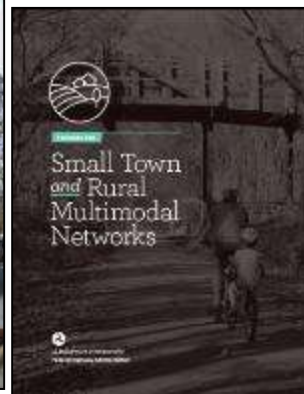
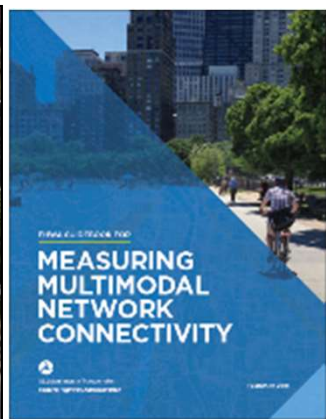
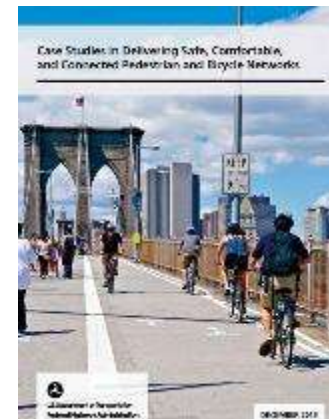
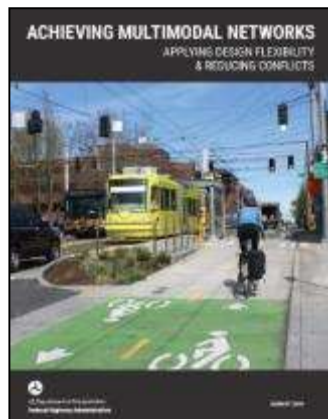
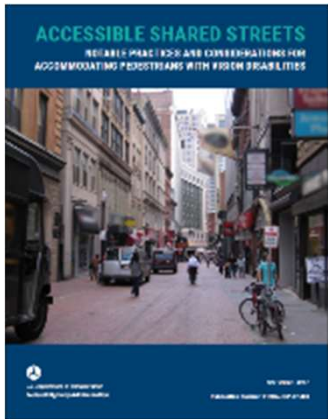
Recreational trails used for transportation

- Rail-trails and other shared use paths.
- No Federal law or regulation requires pavement, (accessibility requires “firm and stable”).
- No Federal law or regulation prohibits equestrian use.



FHWA Pedestrian and Bicycle Resources: 2013-2018

www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian



Proven Safety Countermeasures

See safety.fhwa.dot.gov/provencountermeasures

Proven Safety Countermeasures

Select any of the following icons to learn more about the specific countermeasure



[Roadside Design Improvement at Curves](#)



[Reduced Left-Turn Conflict Intersections](#)



[Systemic Application of Multiple Low Cost Countermeasures at Stop-Controlled Intersections](#)



[Leading Pedestrian Interval](#)



[Local Road Safety Plan](#)



[USLIMITS2](#)



[Enhanced Delineation and Friction for Horizontal Curves](#)



[Longitudinal Rumble Strips and Stripes on Two-Lane Roads](#)



[Median Barrier](#)



[Safety Edges](#)



[Backplates with Retroreflective Borders](#)



[Corridor Access Management](#)



[Dedicated Left- and Right-Turn Lanes at Intersections](#)



[Roundabouts](#)



[Yellow Change Intervals](#)



[Medians and Pedestrian Crossing Islands in Urban and Suburban Areas](#)



[Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon](#)



[Road Diet](#)



[Walkways](#)



[Road Safety Audit](#)

Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities U.S. Department of Transportation Transit, Highway, and Safety Funds

Revised August 9, 2018

This table indicates potential eligibility for pedestrian and bicycle projects under U.S. Department of Transportation surface transportation funding programs. Additional restrictions may apply. See notes and basic program requirements below, and see program guidance for detailed requirements. Project sponsors should fully integrate nonmotorized accommodation into surface transportation projects. Section 1404 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act modified 23 U.S.C. 109 to require federally-funded projects on the National Highway System to consider access for other modes of transportation, and provides greater design flexibility to do so.

Key: \$ – Funds may be used for this activity (restrictions may apply). -\$ – Eligible, but not competitive unless part of a larger project. \$* – See program-specific notes for restrictions.

Activity or Project Type	Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities U.S. Department of Transportation Transit, Highway, and Safety Funds															
	BUILD	INFRA	TIFIA	FTA	ATI	CMAQ	HSIP	NHPP	STBG	TA	RTP	SRTS	PLAN	NHTSA 402	NHTSA 405	FLTP
Access enhancements to public transportation (includes benches, bus pads)	\$	-\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$						\$
ADA/504 Self Evaluation / Transition Plan									\$	\$	\$		\$			\$
Bicycle plans				\$					\$	\$		\$				\$
Bicycle helmets (project or training related)									\$	\$SRTS		\$		\$*		
Bicycle helmets (safety promotion)									\$	\$SRTS		\$				
Bicycle lanes on road	\$	-\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$				\$
Bicycle parking	-\$	-\$	-\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$	\$				\$
Bike racks on transit	\$	-\$	\$	\$	\$	\$			\$	\$						\$
Bicycle repair station (air pump, simple tools)	-\$	-\$	-\$	\$	\$	\$			\$	\$						\$
Bicycle share (capital and equipment; not operations)	\$	-\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$						\$
Bicycle storage or service centers (example: at transit hubs)	-\$	-\$	-\$	\$	\$	\$			\$	\$						\$
Bridges / overcrossings for pedestrians and/or bicyclists	\$	-\$	\$	\$	\$	\$*	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$				\$
Bus shelters and benches	\$	-\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$						\$
Coordinator positions (State or local)						\$ 1 per State			\$	\$SRTS		\$				
Crosswalks (new or retrofit)	\$	-\$	\$	\$	\$	\$*	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$				\$
Curb cuts and ramps	\$	-\$	\$	\$	\$	\$*	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$				\$
Counting equipment				\$	\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$*			\$
Data collection and monitoring for pedestrians and/or bicyclists				\$	\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$*			\$
Historic preservation (pedestrian and bicycle and transit facilities)	\$	-\$	\$	\$	\$				\$	\$						\$
Landscaping, streetscaping (pedestrian and/or bicycle route, transit access); related amenities (benches, water fountains); generally as part of a larger project	-\$	-\$	-\$	\$	\$			\$	\$	\$						\$
Lighting (pedestrian and bicyclist scale associated with pedestrian/bicyclist project)	\$	-\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$				\$
Maps (for pedestrians and/or bicyclists)				\$	\$	\$			\$	\$		\$	\$*			
Paved shoulders for pedestrian and/or bicyclist use	\$	-\$	\$			\$*	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$				\$

Federal Transportation Program Sources for Trails

- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)
- Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG)
- Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside
- Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
- Federal Lands Transportation Program
- Federal Lands Access Program



Transportation Alternatives



The TA Set-Aside authorizes funding for programs and projects defined as ***transportation alternatives***, including:

- On- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, including trails for nonmotorized use.
- Community improvement activities:
 - Historic preservation
 - Vegetation management
- Environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity
- Recreational trail projects
- Safe routes to school projects



Transportation Alternatives



Eligible Project Sponsors

- Local governments;
- Regional transportation authorities;
- Transit agencies;
- Natural resource or public land agencies;
 - May include Federal, State, or local public land agencies
- School districts, local education agencies, or schools;
- Tribal governments;
- Nonprofit entity responsible for local transport safety programs;
- Any other local or regional governmental entity responsible for oversight of transportation or recreational trails (other than an MPO or a State agency) that the State determines to be eligible...
- RTP set-aside project sponsors determined by States.



Recreational Trails Program



Recreational Trails Program

- The RTP provides funds to the States to develop and maintain recreational trails for all trail uses.
 - Usually administered through a State resource agency.
 - Only FHWA program to support routine maintenance.
- States solicit and select projects for funding.
- States are encouraged to use [Youth Corps](#).
- Represents a portion of the Federal motor fuel excise tax paid by OHV users (including snowmobilers).



Recreational Trails Program

Eligible RTP Projects

- Maintain and restore existing trails (and bridges).
- Develop and rehabilitate trailside and trailhead facilities.
- Purchase and lease trail construction and maintenance equipment.
- Construct new trails (limits on Federal lands).
- Acquire easements or property for trails (willing seller only: Condemnation is prohibited).
- Trail assessments for accessibility and maintenance.
- Trail safety and environmental protection education.
- State administrative costs for RTP.
- See RTP Database: <http://recreationaltrailsinfo.org/>



Youth Corps and Workforce Development

MAP-21 Section 1524

- Encourage States to have contracts and cooperative agreements with qualified Youth Service and Conservation Corps.
- Corps work on recreational trails, pedestrian and bicycle projects, safe routes to school.
- Corps provide workforce development training.
- Agencies can sole source to qualified Corps.
- https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation_alternatives/guidance/youth_workforcedev_2018.cfm



FHWA Partnership with The Corps Network



Building the Future

A Guide for Utilizing the Recreational Trails Program
to Partner with Service and Conservation Corps | Spring 2019



Corps Partnership Guide

- 15+ RTP-funded case studies of youth conservation corps;
- 15 Corps programs; 50+ public, private, and Federal project sponsors
- What is a Corps program and why partner with Corps
- DOT strategic plan priorities and goals
- See <https://corpsnetwork.org/our-impact/trails-and-transportation/>

Trail Training

FHWA has agreements to promote trail training.

- American Trails: National Trails Training Partnership
- Tread Lightly! and National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council: OHV User Ethics and OHV Safety and Access Training
- American Council of Snowmobile Associations: Snowmobile Safety and Access Programs
- Bureau of Land Management National Trails
- The Corps Network: Youth Service and Conservation Corps Workforce Development
- Partnership for the National Trails System: National Trails System Information, Corridor Protection, and Training



FHWA Contacts

Divisions: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/about/field.cfm>

Project Sponsors: Contact your State TA or RTP manager.

States: Contact your FHWA Division office.

- Transportation Alternatives:

www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation_alternatives/

- State TA Manager contacts

- RTP: www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/

- State RTP Administrator contacts

National TA and RTP oversight:

Christopher Douwes, Community Planner

Transportation Alternatives

Recreational Trails Program

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