Recreational Trail Program Innovative Practices & Technologies
February 12, 2019
2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Roosevelt
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Connecting Communities: Integrating Transportation and Recreation Networks
February 2019

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.

National Context

**FHWA Programs Support:**
- An integrated, safe, accessible, and convenient transportation system for all
- Connected pedestrian and bicycle networks
- Design flexibility
- Economic development
- Efficient project development
- Equity, quality of life, and livability
- Multimodal data
- Sustainable transportation policies and practices
Youth Corps and Workforce Development
MAP-21 Section 1524

• DOT encourages 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.

Highway Fatalities

2009-2011: Pedestrian fatality numbers were increasing while all crash fatalities were decreasing.

Source: Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) 2016 Annual Reporting File
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.
Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks

- Bicycle and pedestrian design in a rural context.
- Encourages innovation in development of safe and appealing networks for bicycling and walking.
- Examples of peer communities and project implementation.
Strategies for Accelerating Multimodal Project Delivery

• Identifies specific strategies and techniques to accelerate multimodal project delivery.
• Proven techniques that agencies are using to get high quality results
• Reduce barriers and delays in the project delivery process.

Achieving Multimodal Networks: Applying Design Flexibility and Reducing Conflicts

• Provide design flexibility, while reducing multimodal conflicts and achieving connected networks.
• Help practitioners address topics such as:
  – Intersection design
  – Road diets
  – Pedestrian crossing treatments
  – Transit and school access
  – Freight
  – Accessibility
Measuring Multimodal Network Connectivity

- Enhance access to jobs, training, schools, and economic centers
- Accelerate project delivery by capturing efficiencies in economies of scale, project sequencing, construction phasing, financing, and community involvement
- Increase accountability of efforts to increase mobility options and system efficiency
- Prioritize infrastructure investments that fill gaps and address barriers in the transportation network, and that increase safety for all users
- Partner with the private sector to provide innovative multimodal transportation services and capture opportunities relating to shared-use mobility and automated and connected technology
Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities
U.S. Department of Transportation Transit, Highway, and Safety Funds
Revised August 9, 2019

The 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 new program guidance for detailed requirements. Project sponsors should fully integrate pedestrian and bicycle accommodations into surface transportation projects. Section 144 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.

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**Key:** $ = Fireplace; NA = Not applicable; * = Not competitive under any of a given project; ** = Program specific costs for project.

### Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities

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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

**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 with responsibility 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

- 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).

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.
Project Examples

Recreational Trails Program Database

• More than 24,000 project examples
• Searchable by State or project type
• Many examples for you to consider
• See http://recreationaltrailsinfo.org/

What can your Corps do?
Caves Trails & Caverns

Rickwood Caverns Underground Cave Trail
Alabama

Virtual Reality cave system tour technology developed by RTP grant.
Underground LED Cave lighting installation
LED lighting preserves cavern ecosystem
Routine trail maintenance within the cave system

Innovative Uses of RTP Grants
Corps Example: *Kartchner Caverns, Ocotillo Trail*

All trail work on the Ocotillo trail project was completed with hand tools by the AZCC trail crew and park staff.

Informational kiosks and three benches along the route were also constructed.

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**Natural Disaster Recovery & Mitigation**

*Tuckerman Ravine*

*New Hampshire*

Bridge restoration efforts began years after Tropical Storm Irene damaged four bridges.

RTP grant help construct a snowmobile bridge which provides access to skiers, snowshoers and hikers.

Project work provides watershed protection; bridge allows passage of river organisms and debris during floods.
**Natural Disaster Recovery**

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**Natural Disaster Recovery & Mitigation**

**Hurricane Barrier Harborwalk**
**Massachusetts**

Largest stone structure on the East Coast and the largest hurricane barrier in the world

Built in the early 1960s to protect the city after the devastating hurricanes of 1938 and 1954

Multi-use trail that connects communities and neighborhoods in and around New Bedford, MA

Protects about 1,400 acres in New Bedford, Fairhaven, and Acushnet from tidal flooding for hurricanes and coastal storms.
Natural Disaster Recovery & Mitigation

Hurricane Barrier Harborwalk
Massachusetts

Winter Recreational Activities

Uller Ski Trail & Weber Lake Loop
Wisconsin

back-country ski trail that’s groomed every 1-2 weeks by a volunteer group

Uller trail offers Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, and general hiking

RTP grant expanded the trail system into a looped trail to increase visitor participation

Additional trail loops were created due to a substantial increase in users
**Winter Recreational Activities**

*Snowmobile Safety Program*

**Colorado**

Funding is generated through the sale of snowmobile registrations, out-of-state permits, and RTP funding.

The program supports law enforcement, avalanche awareness, and snowmobile Safety Certificates.

Provide over 3,000 miles of safe and well-maintained winter trails for use by all winter sports enthusiasts.

Grooming and maintenance of trails is provided by 27 non-profit volunteer clubs.

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**Winter Recreational Activities**

*Arrow Trail System*

**Colorado**

allow users access to the Idlewild Trail System from downtown Winter Park.

Trails were designed to be sustainable and fun, use natural features and take users to several overlooks and historical sites along the way.

The Town of Winter Park constructed backcountry single track trails.

Access to Tourist Attractions - The trail takes users to Corona Pass Road - a historic railroad route - and the Continental Divide.
Corps Example: *Cataract Bridge*

Bridge project took place within the U.S. Forest Service, Dillon Ranger District. Work was performed by a RMYC-CO crew and involved installing a retaining wall, rocks and gravel along the bridge.

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Wetland Boardwalks

*Chapman Way & Lowe Pond Boardwalk*  
**Massachusetts**

- Project provides habitat preservation and protects rare aquatic plant species and Beaver habitat.
- Also serves as a multimodal trail for hiking, Mountain Biking, Equestrian, and runners.
- Strong support from local Equestrian community.
Corps Example: **Viles Arboretum Boardwalk**

- One of the longest boardwalks in Maine
- Public-Private Partnerships with Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, Augusta Bird Club, Hammond Lumber, and Maine CC
- Provides the community access to Maine’s diverse wetland habitats
- Educational and interpretative programs for the public

Corps Example: **Alaka‘i Swamp Trail**

- Habitat protection from off-trail-trekking also damaged sensitive reserve habitat.
- The project took 1900 staff hours to complete, with 52 hours of helicopter operations and 320 volunteer hours.
- Sections of the boardwalk would be reconstructed with slip-proof boards constructed with recycled plastic that have been reinforced with fiberglass.
- The Alaka‘i Swamp is one of the world’s highest elevation wetlands.
Urban Greenways

**Metropolitan Branch Trail**

*Washington, DC*

The Metropolitan Branch Trail runs along the Metro rail line through Washington, DC.

Connects communities and neighborhoods in DC and runs approx. 8 miles.

Includes connects to 7 metro stations and the area’s trail network.

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**Urban Greenways**

*Lazy Brook & Morris Canal*  
*New Jersey*

Greenway system that links suburban neighborhoods with municipal recreational parks.

The trails are open to hiking, cross-country skiing and horseback riding, with portions open to mountain biking.

Work was completed in November 2018 and includes trail makers, benches, bridges, and parking area.
Corps Example: *Wiseburn Walking Path*

The Wiseburn Walking Path project, completed in September 2017, is a nearly three-quarters of a mile walking path installed by LA Conservation Corps members in the Wiseburn community. This project provided more than 14,000 hours of employment to at-risk young adults.

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Water Trails & Blueways

*Daniel Boone Heritage Canoe Trail*

**North Carolina**

- Grant improved access to the Yadkin River, which will serve as the trail head for the Daniel Boone Heritage Canoe Trail, which is part of the Yadkin River State trail.
- Riverside parking, assisted canoe launch rails and landscaping.
- Second official state river trail in North Carolina, behind the Cape Fear and second-largest watershed in NC.
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

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
christopher.douwes@dot.gov
202-366-5013
**We want to hear from you!**
Don’t forget to complete your Workshop Evaluation
A link to the evaluation will be sent to your email.

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