



**COALITION  
FOR  
RECREATIONAL  
TRAILS**

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Washington, D.C. 20005  
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July 14, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP), which was created in 1991 as part of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, plays an absolutely essential role in funding state trail programs and projects all across the country. As national, regional and local organizations that support recreational trails, we urge you to support the reauthorization of the RTP as a discrete program in the upcoming multi-year surface transportation legislation and to support funding for this important program in the amount of \$690 million (over a six-year period).

Funding for the RTP, which is administered by the Federal Highway Administration, comes from the federal taxes paid on gasoline used in nonhighway recreation and is distributed to the states based on a formula that recognizes the user-pay/user-benefit character of the program. RTP funds are distributed through the state transportation departments and natural resource agencies in cooperation with citizen advisory committees and a network of organizations and communities. These partners leverage available funding with cash and in-kind support. Work for these projects is primarily done by youth corps, volunteers, and small businesses.

The RTP funding-distribution process is proven, having successfully funded in excess of 13,000 projects across the nation over the past 19 years. Despite this success, however, there is still a backlog of good-quality, eligible projects, which exceeds the RTP funding available under SAFETEA-LU, the current transportation legislation, by a ratio of at least 3:1. For this reason, and because past legislation failed to make available all of the funds attributable to nonhighway recreation use of gasoline, we are requesting increased funding for the RTP.

By providing convenient, enjoyable opportunities for people to spend more time outdoors, trails encourage healthier living. Trails are an investment in the future of our communities and our public lands, while connecting people of all ages and backgrounds to the environment – which is good for them and good for the world that surrounds them.

We have seen firsthand the power of these projects to transform communities and transform people. Indeed RTP-funded projects represent investments in vital infrastructure that promote healthy communities and more importantly, healthy people. In addition, the economic impact of these projects is magnified because they improve access to public lands and waters and support both local tourism and recreation businesses, as well as healthy lifestyles.

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Our thousands of members and allies believe that reauthorizing the Recreational Trails Program will achieve both important economic stimulation and strategic investments that will help transform American communities and lifestyles for long-term success.

We also emphasize our strong support for continuation of the Recreational Trails Program as a discrete program. We understand that efficiencies can be achieved by integrating some programs. However, in the case of the RTP, which has come to serve as the foundation for every state's trail program, we think that the damage to the program would far outweigh any potential administrative benefits. The RTP has an identified funding source directly related to trail-based recreation, an exceptional record of using those funds to leverage additional funding for trails, and a proven, transparent, responsive state-based system for distributing funds for a wide variety of trail-related uses. All of those exceptional benefits would be lost if the RTP lost its discrete identity.

The Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) has prepared the enclosed paper that provides additional background, as well as some recommended modifications to the RTP. For more information, we invite you to contact one of the Co-Chairs of the Coalition for Recreational Trails: Marianne Fowler ([Marianne@railstotrails.org](mailto:Marianne@railstotrails.org)) or Derrick Crandall ([dcrandall@funoutdoors.com](mailto:dcrandall@funoutdoors.com)).

Please join Americans across the country in supporting the Recreational Trails Program as part of the new federal transportation bill. Thank you for your leadership in addressing our nation's transportation challenges.

Sincerely,

*National/International Membership Organizations*

All-Terrain Vehicle Association  
America Bikes  
American Council of Snowmobile Associations  
American Hiking Society  
American Horse Council  
American Motorcyclist Association  
American Quarter Horse Association  
American Recreation Coalition  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
American Trails  
Americans for Responsible Recreational Access  
Back Country Horsemen of America  
Bikes Belong Coalition  
BlueRibbon Coalition  
The Corps Network  
Equestrian Land Conservation Resource  
Groundwork USA  
International Association of Snowmobile Administrators  
International Mountain Bicycling Association  
International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association  
Motorcycle Industry Council  
National Association of Recreation Resource Planners  
National Association of State Park Directors  
National Association of State Trail Administrators  
National Competitive Trail Horse Association

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National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council  
National Recreation and Park Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
North American Trail Ride Conference  
Partnership for the National Trails System  
Professional Trail Builders Association  
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy  
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association  
Specialty Equipment Market Association  
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America  
Tread Lightly!, Inc.

*Other Supporters*

Access4Bikes, California  
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs  
Alabama Hiking Trail Society  
Alabama Horse Council  
The Alabama Recreational Trails Advisory Board  
Alabama State Parks Division  
Alaska Trails  
Alaska Transportation Priorities Project  
All Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota  
Allegheny Ridge Corporation, Pennsylvania  
Alta Planning + Design  
Amateur Riders Motorcycle Association of Minnesota  
Appalachian Mountain Club  
Arizona State Parks  
Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs  
A.O. Smith Corp., Kentucky  
Back Country Horsemen of Central Arizona  
The Back Country Horsemen of Idaho  
Back Country Horsemen of Utah  
Back Country Horsemen of Washington State  
Baldwin County Trailblazers, Inc., Alabama  
Bay Area Barns and Trails, California  
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, California  
Bay Circuit Alliance, Massachusetts  
Bay State Trail Riders Association, Massachusetts  
Beneficial Designs, Inc., Nevada  
Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Inc., Massachusetts  
Bicycle Coalition of Maine  
Bicycle Trails Council of Marin, California  
Bigfoot Bicycle Club, California  
Big Lake Trails, Inc., Alaska  
Black Hills Mountain Bike Association, South Dakota  
Blackwater Trail Riders, New Hampshire  
Brown & Danos landdesign, inc., Louisiana  
Buffalo River Back Country Horsemen, Arkansas  
Burden Center Trees and Trails, Louisiana  
Burlington Recreation and Parks Department, North Carolina

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California Bicycle Coalition  
California Conservation Corps  
California Equestrian Trails and Lands Coalition  
California Recreational Trails Committee  
California Trail Users Coalition  
California Trails & Greenways Foundation  
Callander Associates, California  
Capitol Off-Road Pedalers, Wisconsin  
The Carolina Thread Trail, North Carolina  
Carolina Trail Builders, North Carolina  
Carroll County Board, Illinois  
Carson Valley Trails Association, Nevada  
Catawba Lands Conservancy, North Carolina  
Chattahoochee Trail Horse Association, Georgia  
Central Illinois Mountain Bike Association  
Central New York Dedicated Individuals for Responsible Trail-use  
Central Rhode Island JAYCEES  
Cheaha Trail Riders, Inc., Alabama  
Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, Washington  
Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association, Wisconsin  
Chicago Area Sea Kayakers Association, Illinois  
Chittenango Creek Walk and Neighborhood Trail Committee, New York  
Choose Outdoors, Colorado  
Chowan County Tourism Development Authority, North Carolina  
The City of Bogalusa, Louisiana  
City of Cornelia, Georgia  
City of Fresno Parks, After School, Recreation and Community Services  
Department, California  
City of Lafayette Parks, Trails and Recreation Department, California  
City of Newburyport Office of Planning and Development, Massachusetts  
City of Monroe, Louisiana  
City of Oxford Parks and Recreation, North Carolina  
City of Pasadena, Department of Public Works, California  
The City of Somerville, Massachusetts  
Clayton Parks and Recreation Department, North Carolina  
Coastal Land Trust, California  
Coastwalk California  
The Coconino Rural Environment Corps, Arizona  
Colcom Foundation, Pennsylvania  
Concerned Long Island Mountain Bikers, New York  
Connecticut Forest & Park Association  
Connecticut Horse Council Inc.  
County Line Riders of Catalina, Inc., Arizona  
Crossroads Cycling Club, North Carolina  
Cumberland Trail Conference, Tennessee  
Cyclists of the Gitchee Gumees Shores, Minnesota  
Dallas Off-Road Bicycle Association, Texas  
Danvers Bi-Peds, Inc., Massachusetts  
Delaware Equine Council  
Delaware Trail Spinners  
Derry Area Recreational Board, Pennsylvania

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Dothan Leisure Services, Alabama  
Downhill Coalition, Oregon  
Draper City Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee, Utah  
East Bay Area Trails Council, California  
East Coast Greenway Alliance, Rhode Island  
Eastern Trail Alliance, Maine  
El Dorado Equestrian Trail Foundation, California  
Empire State Quarter Horse Association, New York  
Equestrian Partners in Conservation, Maryland  
Equestrian Trails, Inc., California  
Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department, Alaska  
Fallbrook Land Conservancy Trails Council, California  
Faribo Sno-Go Club, Minnesota  
Florida Green Guide Association  
The Florida Mudcutters, Inc.  
Florida Trail Association  
Foothill Trail Hounds, California  
Friends of Acadia, Maine  
Friends of Gillette Castle State Park, Connecticut  
Friends of Harkness Park, Connecticut  
Friends of Lakes Folsom and Natoma, California  
Friends of Lafitte Corridor, Louisiana  
Friends of Southampton Greenway, Massachusetts  
Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail, Michigan  
Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Virginia  
Friends of the Edgewood-Oak Brush Plains Preserve, New York  
Friends of the Manhan Rail Trail, Massachusetts  
Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, North Carolina  
Friends of the Ouachita Trail, Arkansas  
Friends of the Riverfront, Pennsylvania  
Friends of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Connecticut  
Friends of the Trails, Illinois  
Gallatin County Parks and Trails Committee, Montana  
Gallatin Equestrian Partnership, Montana  
Gallatin Valley Land Trust, Montana  
Gaston County Parks and Recreation, North Carolina  
Gem State ATV Association, Idaho  
Get Outdoors USA!, Washington, D.C.  
The Glacial Drumlin Horse Trail Association, Wisconsin  
The Goethe Trail, Inc., Florida  
Granite State Carriage Association, New Hampshire  
Great Barrington Housatonic River Walk, Massachusetts  
Great Barrington Land Conservancy, Massachusetts  
Great Barrington Trails & Greenways, Massachusetts  
Greater Houston Off-Road Biking Association, Texas  
Greater Memphis Greenline, Tennessee  
Groundwork Lawrence, Massachusetts  
Hanover Idling Awareness, New Hampshire  
Hartigan Management, North Carolina  
Hayward Hiking Club, California  
Hickory Hideaway, Illinois

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High Rides Mountain Bike Club, Florida  
Highlands Plateau Greenway, North Carolina  
Human Powered Trails, Inc., Wisconsin  
Hunterdon Horse & Pony Association, New Jersey  
Illinois Paddling Council  
Illinois Trail Riders  
Interior Trails Preservation Coalition, Alaska  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Iowa OHV Association  
Ipswich Bay Circuit Trail Committee, Massachusetts  
Jackson County Recreation and Parks Department, North Carolina  
JAYCEE Education & Library Foundation of Rhode Island  
The Jena Times, Louisiana  
Jersey Action Riders Mountain Bike Club  
Jersey Off Road Bicycle Association  
Kansas Horse Council  
Kelly Landscape Architects, LLC, Alabama  
The Kent County Junior Chamber, Rhode Island  
Kings Mountain Gateway Trails, Inc., North Carolina  
Kingston Conservation Commission, Massachusetts  
Klamath Mountain Bike Association, Oregon  
Lafayette Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission, California  
Lake County Public Services Department, California  
Lake Mansfield Alliance, Massachusetts  
Lancaster Recreation Commission, Pennsylvania  
Lassen Land and Trails Trust, California  
Laurel Foundation, Pennsylvania  
Lewiston Trails Group, California  
Linn County Conservation Board, Iowa  
Long Island Greenways and Healthy Trails, New York  
Louisiana Equine Council  
Louisiana Tech University, Recreation Department  
Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust, Massachusetts  
Maine Island Trail Association  
Maine Snowmobile Association  
Miami Valley Mountain Bike Association, Ohio  
Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance  
Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts  
Millstone Trailblazers, New Jersey  
Minnesota Off Road Cyclists  
Minnesota Trail Riders Association  
Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association  
Minooka Park, Alabama  
Mississippi River Trail, Inc., Arkansas  
Mohave Desert ATV Riders Association, Arizona  
Montana Recreation and Parks Association  
Montana Snowmobile Association  
The Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association  
Muttontown Horsemen's Association, New York  
National Forest Association – Los Padres, California  
The Natural Gait, LLC, Iowa

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Nebraska State Snowmobile Association  
New England Mountain Bike Association  
New Hampshire BikeSmart  
New Hampshire Horse Council  
New Hampshire Quarter Horse Association  
New Jersey Horse Council  
New York City Mountain Bike Association  
New York State Horse Council, Inc.  
Newtown Bridle Lands Association  
The NorCal High School Cycling League, California  
North Ada County Foothills Association, Idaho  
North Carolina Horse Council  
North Carolina Paddle Trails Association  
North Carolina Rail-Trails, Inc.  
North Carolina Recreation & Park Association  
North Country Trail Association, Michigan  
Northern Area Alaska Parks Citizen Advisory Board  
Northern Forest Canoe Trail, Vermont  
Northern Kentucky Horse Network  
Ocala Mountain Bike Association, Florida  
Okanogan Valley Chapter, Back Country Horseman of Washington  
Oregon State Snowmobile Association  
Ouachita Mountain Hikers, Arkansas  
Ozark Greenways, Inc., Missouri  
Paiute ATV Trail Committee, Utah  
The Parish of St. Charles, Louisiana  
Parks & Trails New York  
Pasadena Mountain Bike Club, California  
Patuxent River Authority and Watershed Council, Rhode Island  
Pennsylvania Equine Council  
Pennsylvania Off-Highway Vehicle Association  
Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society  
Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association  
PHM Design Corporation, Colorado  
Piscataqua Hounds, New Hampshire  
Piscataquog Area Trailways, Inc., New Hampshire  
Pima Trails Association, Arizona  
Plaquemines Parish Off Road Committee, Louisiana  
Pointe Coupe Parish Police Jury, Louisiana  
Portland Trails, Maine  
R. B. Lohr & Company, New Hampshire  
Rapids Riders Club, Minnesota  
Red Mountain Park, Alabama  
Redding Mountain Biking Club, California  
Reno Wheelmen, Nevada  
Resource Technology, Inc., New Mexico  
River Road African American Museum, Louisiana  
Rhode Island Blueways Alliance  
Roanoke Parks and Recreation, Virginia  
St. Mary Parish Government Department of Economic Development, Louisiana  
Sam Houston Forest Equestrian Association, Texas

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Sam Houston Trails Coalition, Texas  
San Diego Mountain Biking Association, California  
Santa Clara County Parks, California  
Save Mercer And Ride the Trails, New Jersey  
Schuyler Snowstars, Nebraska  
Serpentine Art and Nature Commons, Inc., New York  
Shady Grove Recreation District, Louisiana  
Shawnee Trail Conservancy, Illinois  
Shore Riders Pony Club, New Jersey  
The Sierra Front Recreation Coalition, Nevada  
Somerset Horse and Pony Association, New Jersey  
Sonoma County Trails Council, California  
South Carolina Horsemen's Council  
South Dakota Division of Parks and Recreation  
South Dakota Parks and Recreation Association  
South Dakota Snowmobile Association  
South Eastern Distance Riders Association, Florida  
The Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission  
Southeastern Minnesota Association of Recreational Trails  
Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association, Georgia  
Southwest Conservation Corps  
Spring Township Parks and Recreation, Pennsylvania  
Stark County Park District, Ohio  
Stock Horse of Wisconsin  
Susquehanna River Trail Association, Pennsylvania  
Syracuse Snoflakes Snowmobile Club, Nebraska  
Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway, Nevada  
Tahoe Rim Trail Association, Nevada  
Takahik River Valley Hikers, Arkansas  
Tehachapi Mountain Trails Association, California  
Tennessee Commission on Greenways and Trails  
Tennessee Rovers  
Texas Motorized Trails Coalition  
Texas Parks & Wildlife  
The Town of Apex, North Carolina  
The Town of Bethania, North Carolina  
Town of Georgetown Rec Path Committee, Massachusetts  
Town of Kentwood, Louisiana  
Town of Millinocket, Maine  
Town of Olla, Louisiana  
Town of Port Barre, Louisiana  
Town of Vernon Parks and Recreation Department, Connecticut  
TRACKS, Arizona  
Trail Management Services LLC, Ohio  
Trail Mix, Inc., Alaska  
Trails4All, California  
Trails Trust of Humboldt Bay, California  
Triangle Greenways Council, North Carolina  
Truckee Meadows Trails Association, Nevada  
Twin Cities Trail Riders, Minnesota  
Upper Valley Trails Alliance, Vermont

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Utah Snowmobile Association

Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers, Alaska

Vermont Horse Council

Vermont Mountain Bike Association

Virginia Horse Council

Wallkill Valley Rail Trail Association, New York

Walpole Trails Committee, Massachusetts

Wachusett Greenways, Inc., Massachusetts

Warrenton Trails Association, Oregon

Washington Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity

Weber Pathways, Utah

West Ouachita Youth Sports Association, Louisiana

White Mountain Open Trails Association, Arizona

Woodlands Trail and Park, Louisiana

Wyoming Back Country Horsemen

Wyoming Division of State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails

XCSkiResorts.com, New Hampshire

Yadkin River Greenway Council, North Carolina

YMCA of Northeast Louisiana

York County Rail Trail Authority, Pennsylvania