State Trails Advisory Committee Meeting AGENDA

10:00 a.m.	Welcome		Congressional Update
10:05	STAC member Updates Other introductions in chat bar Welcome by Kelly McClary Shenandoah Rail Trail Feasibility Study status Welcome by Clyde Cristman	11:00	New Federal Funding Sources Caron Whitaker, Deputy Executive Director, League of American Bicyclists Trail User Concerns Panel
10:15	State Update Panel -Senator Emmett W. Hanger, Jr. 24th District of the Virginia Senate Outdoor Recreation Caucus	11:15	-Tom Howard, Chair, Tidewater Trails Alliance: Wayfinding for a state active transportation network -Sarah Sanford, Virginia and North Carolina Coordinator, East Coast Greenway Alliance: ECG and the NC state trail designation system
10:25	-Cassidy Rasnick, Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade Outdoor Recreation Office		-Samantha Browne, Bureau Chief, Division of Recreation and Parks, Florida Office of Greenways and Trails: Florida state trail designation system
10:35	-Ronique Day, Office of Intermobility Planning and Investment		-Kim Williams, Senior Environmental and Recreation Planner, Equinox: TN/PA designations /rural trail development challenges
10:40	Q&A for all state speakers	11:55	Topics for next meeting
10:50	Virginia Trails Alliance Updates Cat Anthony, President	12:00 noon	Adjourn

State Trail Advisory Committee

Meeting May 19, 2021





Agenda

Introductions

Jennifer Wampler
DCR Trails Coordinator

Kelly McClaryDirector of Planning and Recreation Resources

Clyde Cristman
Director, DCR

- State Update Panel
- Virginia Trails Alliance Update
- Congressional Update
- Trail User Concerns Panel



Housekeeping

- Place all phones / mics on mute
- All comments & questions accepted in Chat Box (These will be recorded and responses will be made during or following this meeting)
- This presentation will be available online following the meeting

Additional comments are also accepted via email or in writing to:

Jennifer Wampler, Trails Coordinator Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation 600 East Main Street, 24th Floor Richmond, VA 23219

Jennifer.Wampler@dcr.virginia.gov

804-786-9240 or by fax @ 804-371-7899







Meeting Purpose

This committee was established to assist DCR in developing and implementing a statewide system of attractive, sustainable, connected, and enduring trails for the perpetual use and enjoyment of citizens.

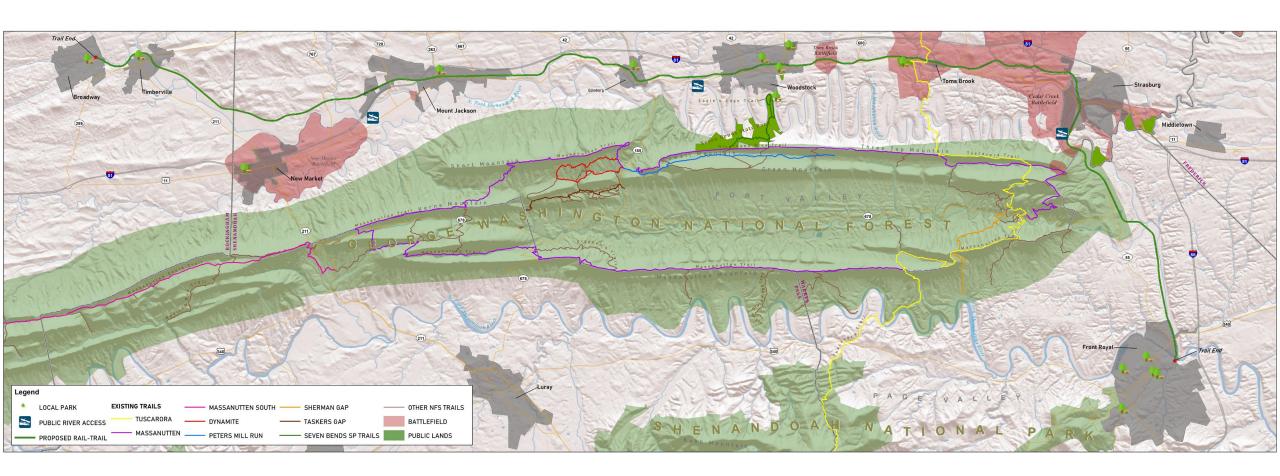


Shenandoah Rail Trail Feasibility Study

Kelly McClary, Director, DCR Division of Planning and Recreation Resources



Proposed Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail and Connecting Trails



VDOT Project Page

https://www.virginiadot.org/ShenValleyRailTrail/.



State Update Panel

Introductions

Clyde Cristman, DCR Director

Senator Emmett W. Hanger, Jr. 24th District of the Virginia Senate

Cassidy Rasnick
Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade

Ronique Day
Deputy Director
Intermodal Planning and Investment

Q&A

- Virginia Trails Alliance Update
- Congressional Update
- Trail User Concerns Panel



Outdoor Recreation Caucus

Senator Emmett W. Hanger, Jr. 24th District of the Virginia Senate



Outdoor Recreation Office

Cassidy Rasnick, Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade



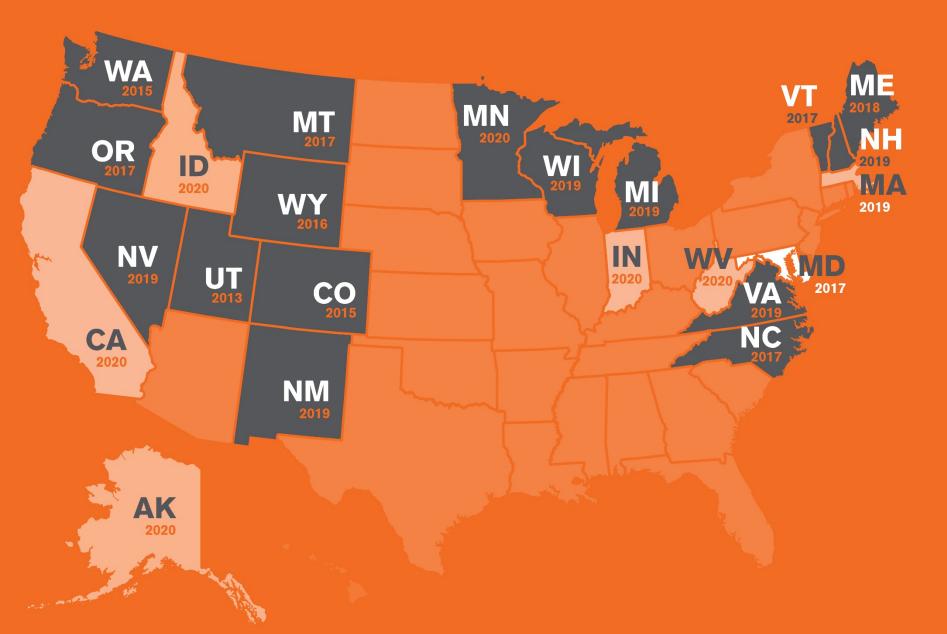


office of the governor of the commonwealth of virginia

office of outdoor recreation

Deputy Secretary of Commerce & Trade

Cassidy rasnick



STATES WITH OFFICES OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

STATES WITH OUTDOOR RECREATION TASK FORCES

TARGETS

WHY OUTDOOR RECREATION

- Economic Impact
- Virginia's Competitive Advantage
- Economic Development
- Talent Attraction and Retention
- Quality of Life/Placemaking

A VIBRANT OUTDOOR ECONOMY





CAMPING

RV campsite Tent campsite Rustic lodge



FISHING

Recreational fly Recreational non-fly



HUNTING

Shotgun Rifle Bow



MOTORCYCLING

On-road Off-road



ATV

OFF-ROADING

ROV Dune buggy 4x4 and Jeep



SNOW SPORTS

Cross-country skiing Downhill skiing Nordic skiing Snowboarding Snowmobiling Snowshoeing

Telemark skiing



TRAIL SPORTS

Day hiking on trail
Backpacking
Rock or ice climbing
Running 3+ miles
Horseback riding
Mountaineering



WATER SPORTS

Kayaking
Rafting
Canoeing
Surfing
Scuba diving
Sailing

Stand-up paddling Boating: cruising, sightseeing, wakeboarding, tubing, kneeboarding, waterskiing



WHEEL SPORTS

Bicycling, paved road Bicycling, off-road Skateboarding



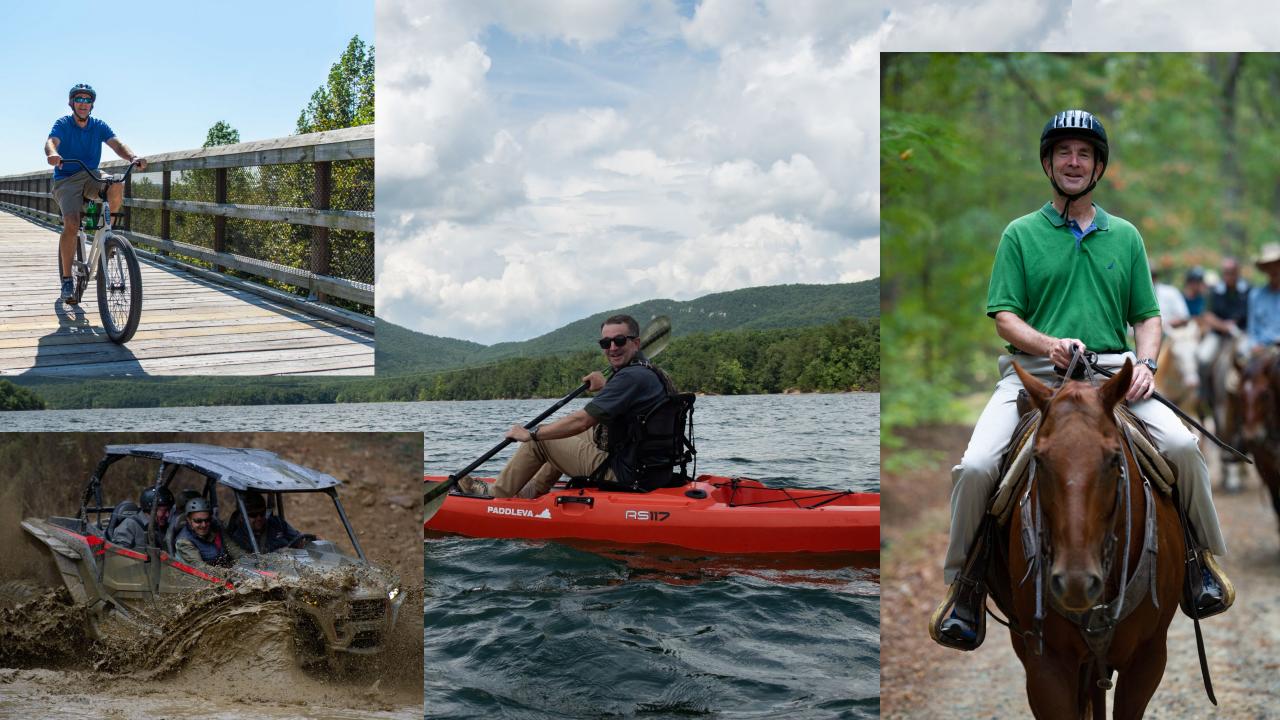
WILDLIFE VIEWING

PRIORITIZING TARGET INDUSTRIES TO MAXIMIZE IMPACT ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH

Region	ATVs	Hiking/ Camping	Watersports	Biking	Food & Bev ²	Motorsports	Fishing	Textile Mfg (sails)	Shipbuilding
Southwest	⊘	⊘	Ø	Ø		Ø	Ø		
Virginia Mountains		Ø	Ø	ਂ	Ø				
Shenandoah Valley		⊘	⊘	②	Ø		Ø		
Central VA		⊘	⊘	Ø			Ø		
Southern VA			⊘	Ø					
Fredericksburg/ NOVA		Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø			
Chesapeake Bay (incl. ES)		Ø	⊘		②		Ø	Ø	Ø
Hampton Roads		⊘	⊘		Ø				Ø

WHAT DOES THE OFFICE DO

- Business Recruitment and Expansion
- Promote Virginia as an Outdoor Destination and Brand
- Coordinate Agencies' Work with Industry





State Budget Amendment Items

Ronique Day, Deputy Director
Intermodal Planning and Investment
Office of the Secretary of Transportation



2021 Special Session I Budget Amendment Item 447.10 #1c

B-5. Up to \$10,000,000 shall be transferred to Item 447 for regional trails to support the planning, development and construction of multi-use trails with priority given by the Board to developing new regionals trails, to projects to improve connectivity of existing trail networks, and to geographic diversity in the use of such funds

G. As a part of the initiative described in subsection B.5., the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment shall coordinate a policy working group comprised of representatives from the Department of Transportation, the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Statewide Trails Advisory Committee, staff of the House Appropriations Committee, and staff of the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee. The working group shall evaluate and recommend a prioritization process for the identification of new multi-use trail opportunities, a master planning process, and a funding needs assessment. The Office of Intermodal Planning shall report on the recommendations of the working group to the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees no later than October 15, 2021.



Virginia Trails Alliance

Cat Anthony, President, also Executive Director, Virginia Capital Trail



Congressional Update

Caron Whitaker, Deputy Executive Director, League of American Bicyclists





FEDERAL FUNDING FOR TRAILS

Caron Whitaker
Deputy Executive Director
League of American Bicyclists
caron@bikeleague.org
202-215-3908



AGENDA

Available now:

- RAISE grants
- Senate Earmarks

American Jobs Plan

Potential new funding

Changes in reauthorization

- Themes to watch for
- Railbanking tax change





RAISE GRANTS

REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY

\$1 Billion

Grants up to \$25 million

50% Urban/ 50% rural

No more than \$100 million per any one state

30 million for planning

10 Million for areas of persistent poverty - (20% poverty for 30 years)

Getting 'shovel worthy' projects 'shovel ready'

Timeline

Applications due July 12

Webinars -online https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/outreach



CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING

Senate announced earmarks for appropriations

- \$4 Billion total
- ~\$40 million
 - For all types of projects not just transportation

Advice

- Think of small piece of project
- Something with demonstrable local support
- Will need local match
- Tangible benefits in 4 or 6 years

Reach out to in- state offices

- Invite staff/ Senator for a ride
- Listen to their wants, don't just focus on yours

Not clear if there will be transportation reauthorization Senate earmarks



WHEN THINKING ABOUT FEDERAL FUNDING...

Themes in this year's bill

Climate

Equity

People-centric

Modernization

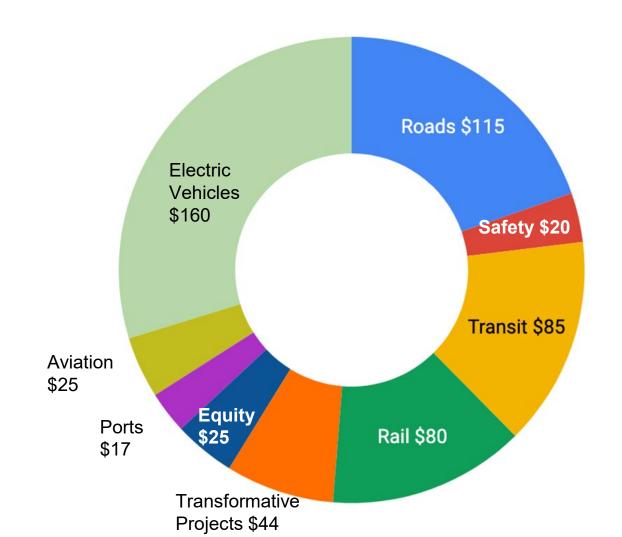
Local Control*



AMERICAN JOBS PLAN



TRANSPORTATION BREAKDOWN



- Roads and Bridges
- Road Safety
- Transformative projects
- Equity/ Reconnecting Communities



\$115- HIGHWAY, ROADS AND BRIDGES

Repair/modernize Roads and Highways

"Not just 'fixing it first" but 'fixing it right' for safety, resiliency and all users.

Funding Breakdown

- includes \$5 billion for Transportation Alternatives
 - (roughly \$26 m/yr for 5 years for VA)



SAFETY & RAISE

\$8 billion for "Safety for All Users"-

- For VA ~\$40 million a year / 5 years

RAISE Grants - \$5 billion over 5 years



NYC Informer



RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES

\$25 billion Redress historic inequities and build the future of transportation infrastructure

- Reconnect neighborhoods cut off by historic investments
- Ensure new projects increase opportunity, advance racial equity / environmental justice, and
- Promote affordable access.





INFRASTRUCTURE PORTION

WHAT THIS IS

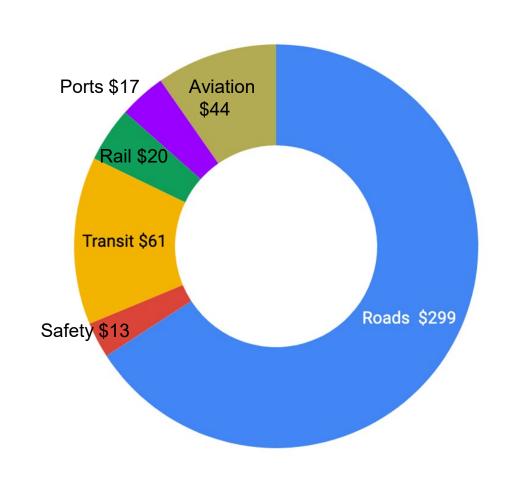
- A (5 year) plan to:
- Improve existing infrastructure
- Sets standard for people -centric infrastructure
- Do the prep work to make the US competitive in the future (research and development)

WHAT IT ISN'T

- Legislative language
- Policy change
- All or nothing
- Bipartisan

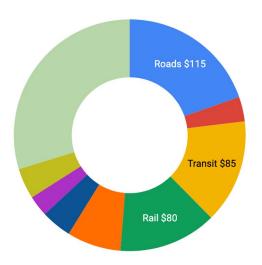


REPUBLICAN RESPONSE



Noticeable differences

- Roads vs. Transit ratio
- Importance of Rail
- Traditional vs. Reform





AJP and REAUTHORIZATION

Currently-

- Bipartisan transportation bill + possibility for Reconciliation later
- Reconciliation bill would not focus on transportation

How AJP affects Reauthorization

- Creates running room for Dems in Congress
 - Size
 - balance between driving and other modes
 - Climate
 - Equity

BUT, slows down the process





REAUTHORIZATION



EVOLUTIONARY VS. REVOLUTIONARY

SENATE-

EVOLUTIONARY Summer 2019

- Bipartisan Deal
- First ever climate title
- Significant changes to existing programs

Deal- New ideas layered on top

HOUSE-REVOLUTIONARY Summer 2020

- Partisan (b.c of climate change)
- Climate integrated through out

Integrated changes throughout



CHANGES THIS YEAR



House

- Pressure on Chairman to make bi-partisan
- That could result in more moderate/ less progressive bill

Senate

- Change in leadership from R to D
- Republican support on committee for bike/ped
- Likely to become more progressive

In the end could be a more progressive law



TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES

	Current	2019 Senate bill	2020 House bill
Transportation Alternatives (Virginia)	\$22.7 Million	~ \$32 Million, increase each year	~\$40 Million increases each year
Local match flexibility	80/20 per project	State Flexibility - Balance across states - Flexibility across state	same
Rec Trails Program (Virginia)	\$1.5 Million	\$1.5 Million	\$2.6 million



BIKE/ PED SAFETY

	FAST Act	2019 Senate ATIA (above 15% b/p)	2020 House (above median)
Safety	\$ 3.8M in 2020* No requirement	\$ 6 Million	\$11 Million

Virginia-

- In the middle of both measures
- ~16% of overall Fatalities are bicyclists and pedestrians



CLIMATE PROGRAMS

CLIMATE PROGRAMS (reduce GHG)	Current	Senate (National #s)	House (National #s)
State program	N/A (CMAQ)	\$250 Million	\$1,720 Million
Incentives	None	\$250 Million/yr \$100 rewards	Top 15 states
Local govt		Eligible for rewards, (Suballocation)	Grant program
Penalty			Bottom 15 states with no GHG reductions



WAYS AND MEANS

Buy America Bonds-

- Infrastructure financing tool
- Municipal bond for infrastructure
- Right now excludes railbanking
- Proposal that will allow railbanking costs to be included.





QUESTIONS



WHEN THINKING ABOUT FEDERAL FUNDING...

Themes in this year's bill

Climate

Equity

People-centric

Modernization

Local Control*



LEGISLATIVE TIMELINE

SENATE

Committee process

- EPW- Highways
- Banking, HUD- Transit
- Commerce-Safety
- Finance-funding

Senate floor vote

HOUSE

Committee Process

- Transportation & Infrastructurepolicy
- Ways & Means-funding

House floor vote

July

Conference Committee

June

Senate floor vote

House floor vote

President Signs



Trail User Concerns Panel

Introductions

Tom Howard

Chairman, Tidewater Trails Alliance

Sarah Sanford

VA and NC Coordinator, East Coast Greenway Alliance

Samantha Browne

Bureau Chief, Division of Recreation and Parks, Florida Office of Greenways

Kim Williams

Senior Environmental and Recreation Planner, Equinox

Q&A



TIDEWATER TRAILS ALLIANCE

Virginia's State Trails







East Coast







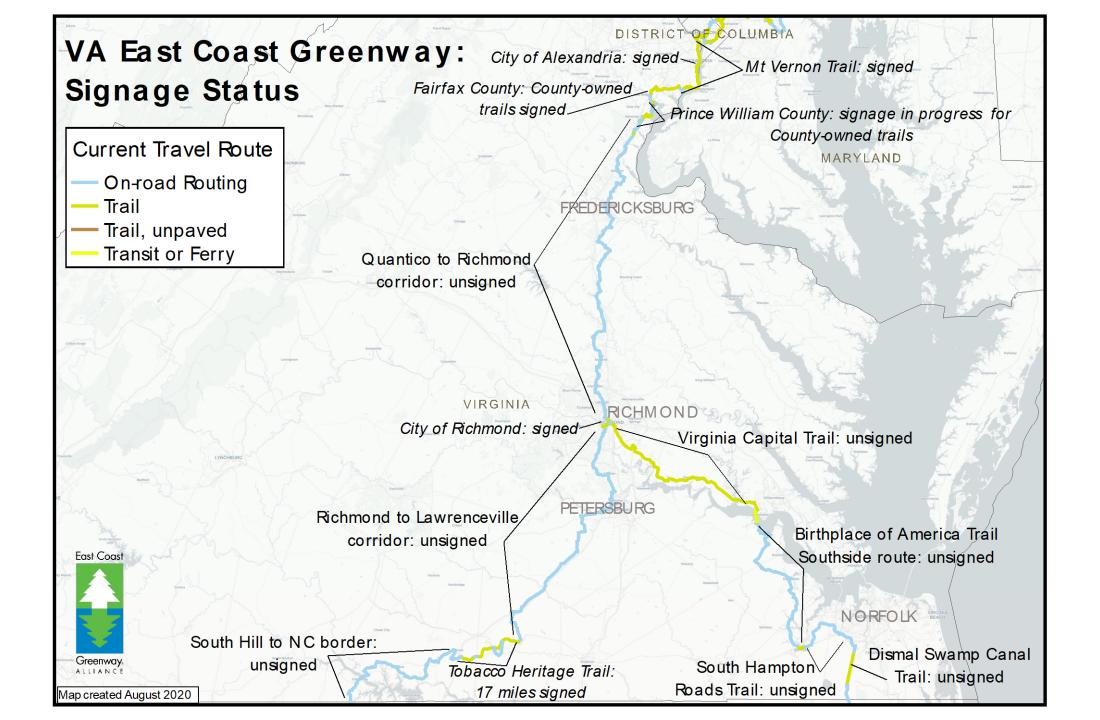


East Coast Greenway. ALLIANCE

Sarah Sanford

VA & NC Coordinator

East Coast Greenway Alliance

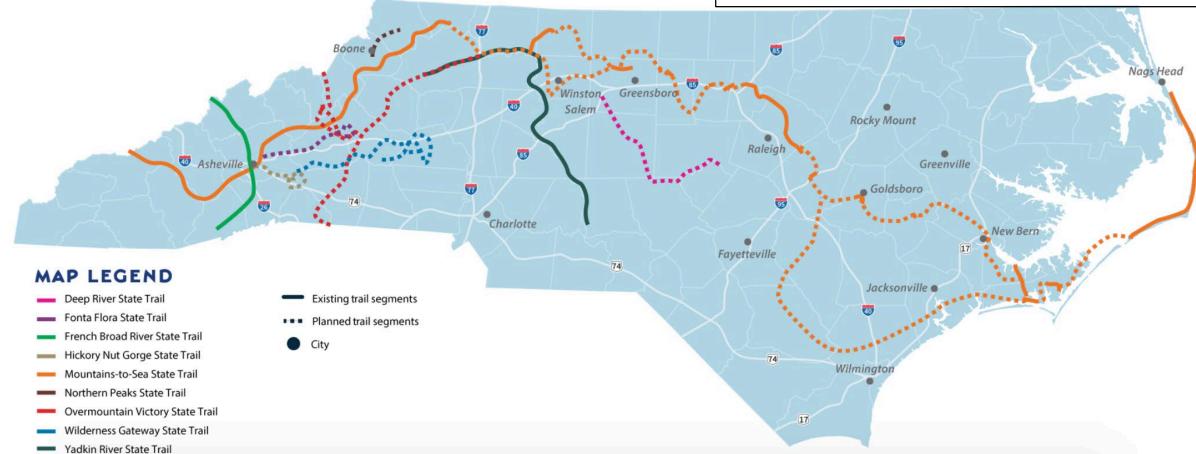


Map of the state trails system









GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2021

H.B. 130 Feb 23, 2021 HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40094-MH-57

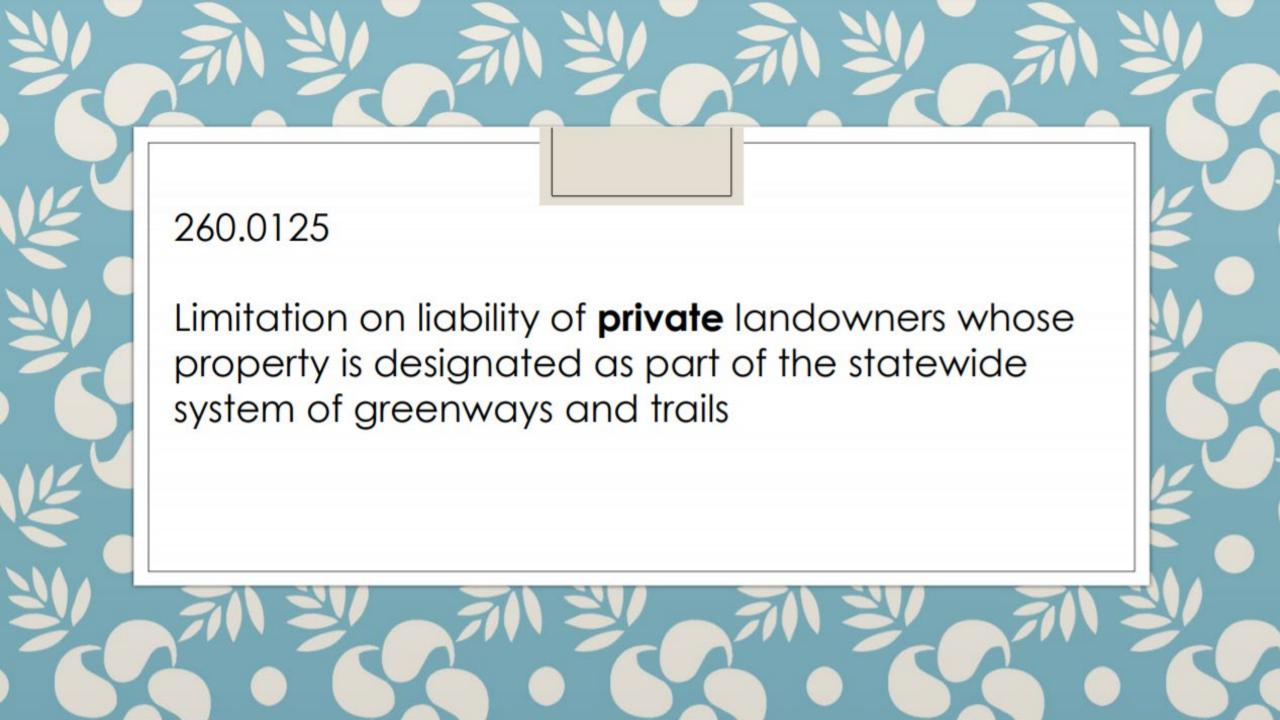
Sh	ort Title:	East Coast Greenway/State Trails.	(Public)
Sp	onsors:	Representative White.	
Re	ferred to:		

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ADDITION OF THE EAST COAST GREENWAY IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA TO THE STATE PARKS SYSTEM.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. The General Assembly finds that a multiuse trail across Central and Eastern North Carolina would provide a multitude of economic, recreational, health, environmental, community, and transportation benefits. The General Assembly further finds that federal, State, local, and private partners have expressed substantial interest in completing such a trail, that such a trail would be a recreational resource of statewide significance, and that including such a trail in the State Parks System as a State Trail would be beneficial to the people of North Carolina and further the development of North Carolina as "The Great Trails State." **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly authorizes the Department of Natural and



The private landowner does not have to:

- 1. Extend any assurance that the land is safe for any purpose;
- 2. Incur any duty of care toward a person who goes on the land; or
- 3. Become liable or responsible for any injury to persons or property caused by the act or omission of a person who goes on the land.

The provisions apply whether the person going on the designated greenway or trail is an **invitee**, **licensee**, **trespasser**, **or otherwise**.

Any private landowner who consents to designation as part of the statewide system of greenways and trails **without compensation** will be considered a volunteer, and will be covered by **state liability protection**.

The private landowner **may not charge** for entering or using the land or have **any commercial or other activity where profit is derived** by the landowner from the patronage of the general public.

Incentives granted by any unit of government to the private landowner, including tax incentives, grants, or other financial consideration **specific to the development or management of designated greenways and trails**, shall not be construed as a charge for use or profit derived from patronage for purposes of this subsection and shall not be construed as monetary or material compensation.

The protection also applies to adjacent land owned by the private landowner who consents to designation of a greenway or trail when the adjacent land is accessed through the land that is designated.

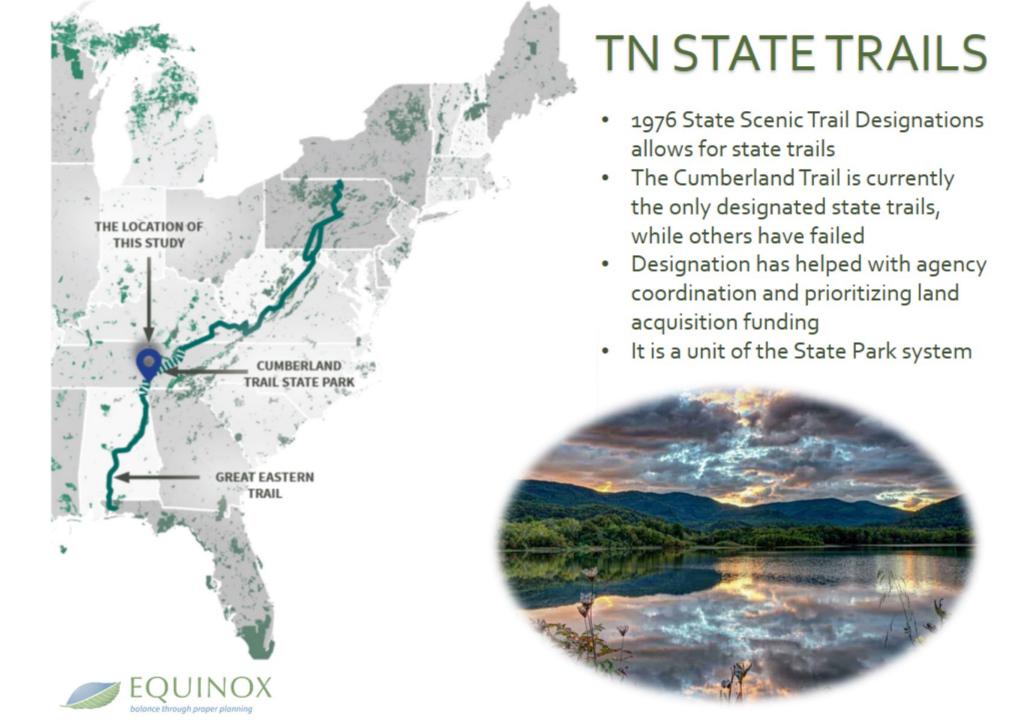
The department will post notices along the boundary of the **designated** greenway or **trail** to inform the public that the land **adjacent** to the greenway or trail is private property and unauthorized entry for any purpose is prohibited and constitutes trespassing.

A private landowner whose land is designated as part of the statewide system of greenways and trails will be indemnified for:

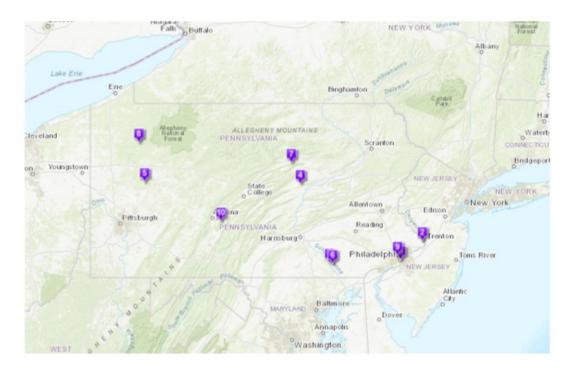
Any injury or damage incurred by a third party arising out of the use of the designated greenway or trail;

Any injury or damage incurred by a third party on lands adjacent to and accessed through the designated greenway or trail; and

Any **damage** to the landowner's property, including land adjacent to and accessed through the designated greenway or trail, **caused by the act or omission of a third person resulting from any use of the land** so designated.



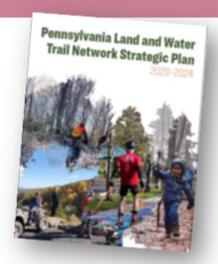
PA STATE TRAILS



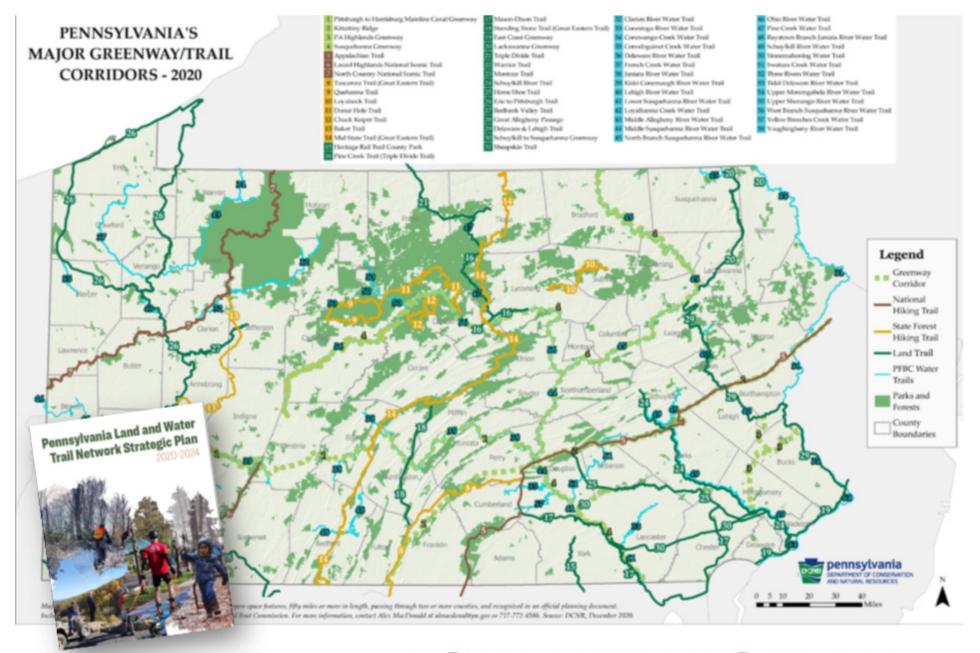
- No officially designated state trails, but do have an official trail map of Pennsylvania as part of their PA Land and Water Trail Network Strategic Plan
- Have streamlined priorities with other state agencies (PennDOT, DEQ, etc.)

Action Steps

- a) Identify and close Pennsylvania's Priority Trail Gaps.
- b) From the list of Priority Trail Gaps, identify and close the Top 10 Trail Gaps.
- Prioritize funding for projects that address Priority Trail Gaps.
- Increase public awareness of Priority Trail Gaps and the importance of closing them.
- e) Close Priority Trail Gaps by relocating and rehabilitating historic metal truss bridges.
- f) Support efforts for specialized trail user groups to define and identify vulnerabilities and opportunities that relate to their unique trails systems (e.g. mountain biking, ATVing, hiking).
- g) Increase opportunities for water-based recreation by identifying areas with the greatest need for public access and closing gaps in water trails.



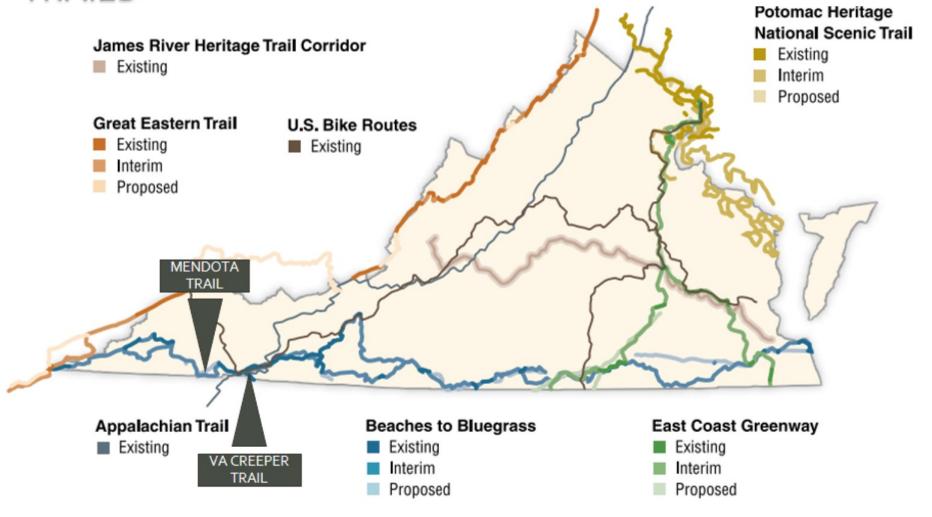






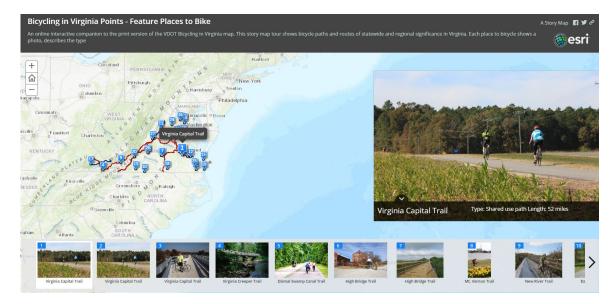
PA STATE TRAILS PLAN

HOW STATE DESIGNATION WOULD HELP RURAL COMMUNITIES & TRAILS



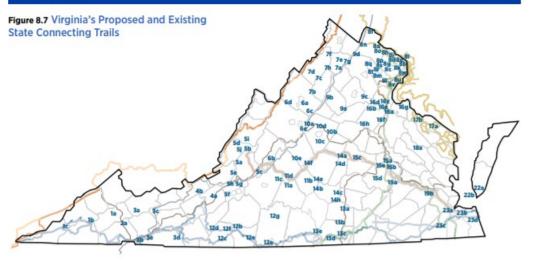


Growing Active Transportation and Recreation Networks





CHAPTER 8 Trails



- 1a Clinch River Trail
- 1b Guest River Gorge Trail
- 1c Wallen Ridge Trail
- 2a Clinch Mtn/Channels/Hidden
- Valley Connector
- 2b Cranesnest Equestrian Trail
- 3a Heart of Appalachia Bike Route
- 3b Virginia Creeper Trail (part)
- 3c Walker Mountain Trail
- 3d Matthews State Forest Roads and Trails
- 3e Grayson Highlands State Park Trails
- 4a Valley to Valley Trail
- 4b Poverty Creek/Huckleberry Connector
- 5a Craig Valley Scenic Trail
- 5b Fore Mountain Trail
- 5c Glenwood Horse Trail
- 5d Jackson River Trail
- 5e North Price/Broad Mountain Trails
- 5f Roanoke River Greenway Network
- 5g Tinker Creek Greenway Carvin's Cove Trails
- Douthat State Park Trails
- 5) Dry Run Trail
- 6a Bike the Valley Bike Route
- 6b Chessie/Brushy/Buena Vista Connector
- 6c Madison Run horse/hiking trail
- 6d Wild Oak NRT
- 6e South River Greenway
- 7a Dickey Ridge Trail
- 7b Massanuttan Mountain South
- 7c Massanuttan Mountain Trail
- 7d Shenandoah Town and County Rail Trail
- 7e Royal Shenandoah Greenway
- 7f Tuscarora Trail
- 7g Route 522 pedestrian path
- 7h Shendandoah State Park Trails
- 8a Goose Creek Trail
- 8b Alexandria Heritage Trail
- 8c Bull Run-Occoquan Trail 8d Cross County Trail

- 8e Custis Trail
- 8f Hill, Hops and Vine Bike Route
- 8g I-66 Bikeway
- 8h Northern Broad Run
- Pentagon Memorial Circuit Trail (911 Trail) Pimmit Run Stream Valley Trail
- 8k Pohick Stream Valley Trail
- 81 Route 234 Bicycle and Running Trail
- 8m Southern Broad Run
- 8n W&OD Connector
- 80 W&OD Trail
- 8p West County Trail
- 8g Mill to Mill Trail
- 8r Catharpin Greenway
- 8s Manassas Bridle Trails 8t Conway-Robinson State Forest
- Roads and Trails
- 8u Mason Neck State Park Trails
- 8v Leesylvania State Park Trails
- 8w Capital Trail Coalition trail network
- 9a Rapidan River Trail
- 9b Rapidan horse/hiking trail
- 9c Rappahannock River Trail
- 9c Sky Meadows State Park Trail
- 10a Crozet Tunnel Trail
- 10b Rivanna River Trail
- 10c Route 20 Sidepath
- 10d Three-Notched Trail
- 10e Route 29 sidepath
- 11a James River Heritage/Poplar
- Forest Connector
- 11b Appomattox Heritage/State Forest Connector
- 11c Lynchburg Trail System
- and Riverside extension 11d Lynchburg Bike Loops
- 12a Angler's Ridge Trail System
- 12b Philpott Reservoir Trails 12c Mayo River/Dehart Trail System
- 12d Rocky Knob/Rock Castle Gorge
- 12e Smith River Sports Complex Connector
- 12f Fairy Stone State Park Trails 12g Route 29 bike route

- 13a Tobacco Heritage High Bridge Connector
- 13b Tobacco Heritage Road Routes
- 13c Tobacco Heritage Future Off-road Trails
- 13d Occoneechee State Park Trails 13e Staunton River State Park Trails
- 14a Willis River Trail/Cumberland State
- Forest Roads and Trails
- 14b High Bridge Trail
- 14c Prince Edward State Forest Roads and Trails
- 14d Bear Creek Lake State Park Trails
- 14e Holliday Lake State Park Trails
- 14f James River State Park Trails
- 14h Twin Lakes State Park Trails
- 15a Gillie's Creek Greenway
- 15b Cannon Creek Greenway
- 15c Powhatan State Park Trails 15d Pocahontas State Park Trails
- 15e James River Park Trail System
- 16a Dahlgren Connector
- 16b Virginia Central Rail Trail
- 16c Canal Path
- 16d Fall Hill Avenue Trail
- 16e Rappahannock River Heritage Trail
- 16f Spotsylvania Greenways
- 16g Lake Anna State Park Trails
- 16h Caledon State Park Trails
- 17a Northern Neck Heritage Bike Route 17b Westmoreland State Park Trails
- 18a Middle Peninsula Bike Route
- 19a Appomattox River Trail
- 19b Chippokes Plantation State Park Trails
- 22a Southern Tip Bike & Hike Trail
- 22b Kiptopeke State Park Trails
- 23a Birthplace of America Trail
- 23b Elizabeth River Trail
- 23c Dismal Swamp Trails 23d First Landing State Park Trails



Topics for next meeting

Please send your ideas to:

Jennifer Wampler, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

600 East Main Street, 24th Floor Richmond, Virginia 23219

or email

<u>Jennifer.wampler@dcr.virginia.gov</u>

or by fax to 804-371-7899.

National Trails Day is June 5!

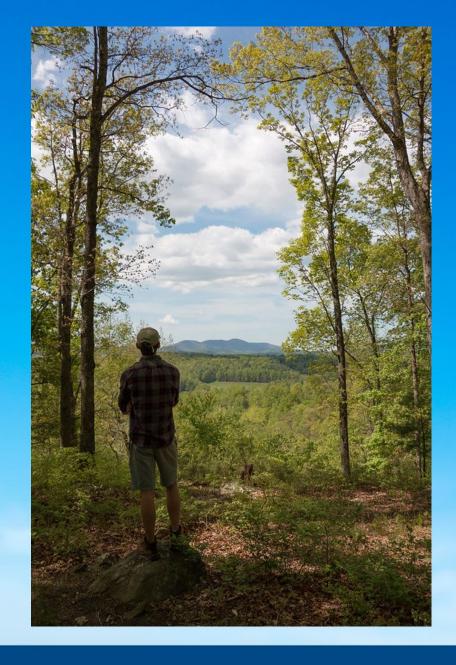




Next Steps

- Metroquest Survey for Shen Valley RT
- Public meeting for Shen Valley RT
- Prepare feasibility study for G.A.
- Prepare STAC report for G.A.
- Fall STAC meeting (early November?)
- RTP and Access grants due June 30
- https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/grants





Thank you!

Other comments and concerns?

Please send to:

Jennifer Wampler, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

600 East Main Street, 24th Floor Richmond, Virginia 23219

or email <u>Jennifer.wampler@dcr.virginia.gov</u> or by fax to 804-371-7899.

