



NEW JERSEY

FUNDING TRAILS

A GUIDE TO FUNDING MULTI-USE TRAILS

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) is committed to making trails happen. Through capital funding and technical assistance, DVRPC has supported the development of more than 100 miles of trails.

Trails are part of DVRPC's vision for Greater Philadelphia: a safe and modern transportation system that protects and preserves natural resources while creating healthy communities.

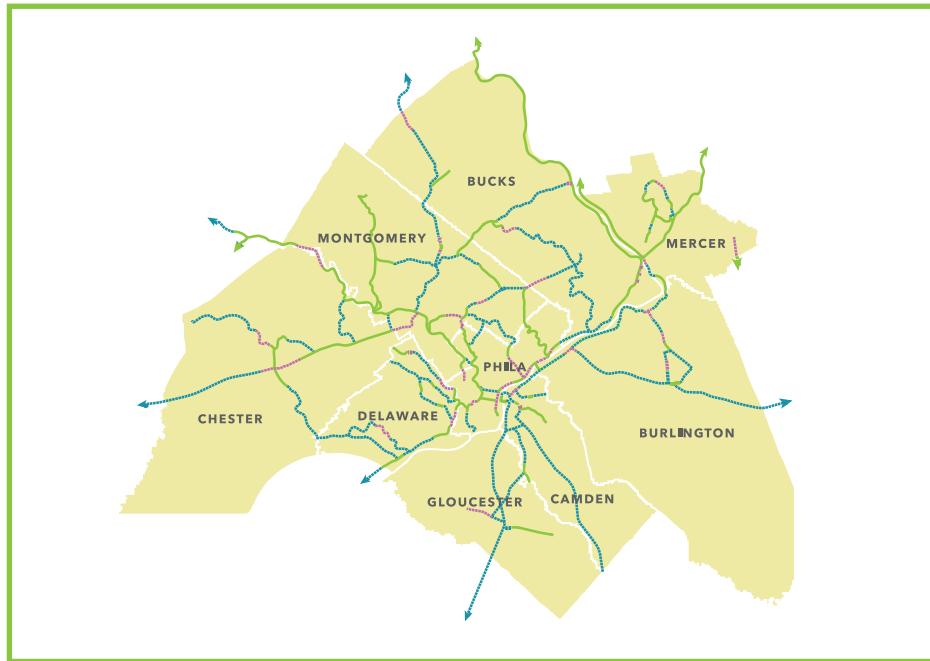
DVRPC is a partner in planning and building the Circuit Trails, an envisioned network of more than 800 miles of multi-use trails connecting Greater Philadelphia.

making trails
HAPPEN

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REGIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

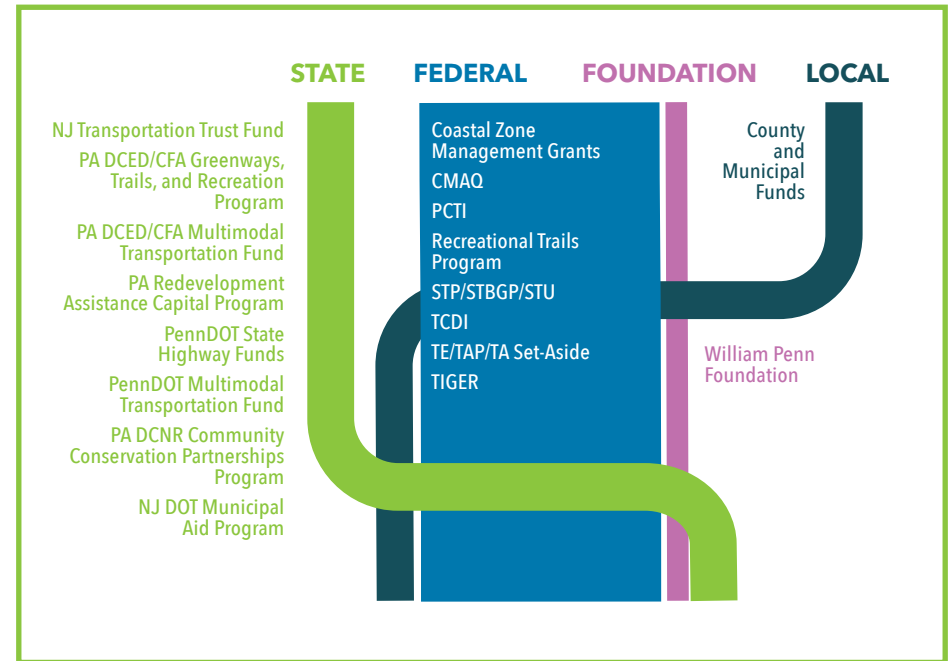
Since 2011, DVRPC's Regional Trails Program has awarded over \$22,000,000 to over 120 projects for planning, design, and construction of the Circuit Trails, Greater Philadelphia's envisioned network of more than 800 miles of regional multi-use trails.



The Regional Trails Program, administered by DVRPC with funding from the William Penn Foundation, seeks out catalytic opportunities for targeted, priority trail planning, design, and construction projects. The program also provides technical assistance to trail developers, counties, municipalities, and non-profit organizations.

DVRPC LEVERAGES DOLLARS & PARTNERSHIPS

DVRPC leverages dollars and partnerships to make trails happen. By partnering with federal, state, and local governments, as well as foundations and non-profit organizations, DVRPC helps advance projects through the planning, design, and construction process.



\$336,646,563
since 2010

Securing funding for multi-use trail planning, design, and construction is an essential step in the trail development process. There are multiple sources of funding, each with their own requirements, categories of eligible projects and activities, and cycles of availability.

Sources of funding can include federal, state, county, and local governments; private companies and foundations; and others.



The availability of funding, the timing of application processes, and match and eligibility requirements can vary from funding cycle to funding cycle, so it is advisable to contact program staff and monitor websites for program announcements and information.

Successful projects are often able to leverage funding from multiple sources by using one grant to match another or to fund one phase of a project that logically leads to the next. The following guide describes funding available to trail projects in New Jersey.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SET-ASIDE (TASA)

TASA provides federal funds for “non-traditional” projects and activities, including on- and off-road bicycle and pedestrian facilities, such as bike lanes, trails, and sidewalks.

Administered By: New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJ DOT) in coordination with DVRPC

Type of Funding: Federal

Award Range: Generally \$150,000–\$1,000,000

Match Requirement: None

Eligible Activities: Construction¹

Eligible Applicants: Counties, municipalities, transit agencies, natural resource or public land agencies, tribal governments, any other local or regional governmental entity as determined by the state with responsibility for oversight of transportation (other than a metropolitan planning organization or a state agency), and non-profit organizations responsible for the administration of local transportation safety programs

For More Information: www.dvrpc.org/TAP and www.state.nj.us/transportation/business/localaid/alternatives.shtm

¹Starting in 2016, NJDOT has offered design assistance to TASA awardees. Under the Design Assistance Program, awardees can choose from a list of pre-selected design and engineering firms to design their projects and prepare Federal Highway Administration-compliant plan, specification, and estimate (PS&E) documentation.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS)

SRTS aims to make bicycling and walking to school safe and appealing for children of all ages. Bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, such as sidewalks, bike lanes, and trails, and traffic-calming measures are eligible. The project must be within two miles of a K–8 school.

Administered By: NJ DOT in coordination with DVRPC

Type of Funding: Federal

Award Range: At least \$250,000 (advised)

Match Requirement: None

Eligible Activities: Construction;² Design and Construction (if the project is located within a Schools Development Authority District or an Urban Aid Community)

Eligible Applicants: Counties, municipalities, schools, school districts, boards of education, and non-profit organizations responsible for the administration of local transportation safety programs

For More Information: www.dvrpc.org/TAP and www.state.nj.us/transportation/business/localaid/srts.shtm

²Starting in 2016, NJDOT has offered design assistance to SRTS awardees. Under the Design Assistance Program, awardees can choose from a list of pre-selected design and engineering firms to design their projects and prepare FHWA-compliant PS&E documentation.

CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY (CMAQ) PROGRAM

CMAQ funds transportation-related projects that help reduce congestion and meet air quality standards. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities, such as sidewalks, bike lanes, bike racks and parking, bicycle share (capital costs only), and trails, such as the Circuit Trails, that serve a commuting purpose are eligible.

Administered By: DVRPC

Type of Funding: Federal

Award Range: At least \$250,000

Match Requirement: None (although local match can increase project's score)

Eligible Activities: Construction

Eligible Applicants: State agencies, counties, municipalities, school districts, and non-profit organizations

For More Information: www.dvrpc.org/CMAQ

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP)

RTP provides funding for trails and trailside and trailhead facilities for both motorized and non-motorized use. New funding rules and a federal review have led to recent programmatic changes. As of the publication of this guide, program staff are in the process of developing new comprehensive guidance documents.

Administered By: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)

Type of Funding: Federal

Award Range: Not available as of publication

Match Requirement: 20 percent

Eligible Activities: Construction, maintenance

Eligible Applicants: Federal and state agencies, counties, municipalities, and non-profit organizations

For More Information: trails.nj.gov

FEDERAL LANDS ACCESS PROGRAM (FLAP)

FLAP provides funding to improve transportation facilities that provide access to, are adjacent to, or are located within federal lands, but that are built and maintained by an entity other than the federal government. Bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, such as trails, bike lanes, and sidewalks, are eligible.

Administered By: FHWA

Type of Funding: Federal

Award Range: At least \$200,000 preferred

Match Requirement: Generally 20 percent

Eligible Activities: Planning, design, and construction

Eligible Applicants: Tribes, states, counties, and municipalities

For More Information: flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap/ and flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap/nj/

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (TCDI)

TCDI provides funding for planning projects that advance smart growth initiatives in Greater Philadelphia. Bicycle and pedestrian circulation plans, as well as planning for networks of trails and bike lanes, are eligible.

Administered By: DVRPC

Type of Funding: Federal

Award Range: Generally \$50,000–\$100,000 (up to \$175,000 for multi-municipal or county projects)

Match Requirement: 20 percent

Eligible Activities: Planning

Eligible Applicants: Counties and municipalities

For More Information: www.dvrpc.org/TCDI

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RIVERS, TRAILS, AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE

The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program provides technical staff to help plan and design resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects, including trails.

Administered By: National Park Service

Type of Funding: Federal in-kind

Award Range: N/A

Match Requirement: N/A

Eligible Activities: Planning

Eligible Applicants: Tribes, states, counties, municipalities, non-profit organizations, and community groups

For More Information: www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm

BIKEWAY GRANT PROGRAM

The Bikeway Grant Program provides funds to counties and municipalities to promote transportation by bicycle in New Jersey. Separated (or buffered) bike lanes and trails are eligible.

Administered By: NJ DOT

Type of Funding: State

Award Range: Typically \$100,000–\$500,000

Match Requirement: None

Eligible Activities: Construction³

Eligible Applicants: Counties and municipalities

For More Information: njdotlocalaidrc.com/state-funded-programs/bikeways

³All municipalities and counties are eligible to use up to 5 percent of their grant allotment on design.

TRANSIT VILLAGE GRANT PROGRAM

The Transit Village Grant Program provides grants for non-traditional transportation-related projects to municipalities designated as Transit Villages. Bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, such as sidewalks, bike lanes, and trails, are eligible. Projects must be at least partially located within a half-mile of a transit facility.

Administered By: NJ DOT

Type of Funding: State

Award Range: Typically \$25,000–\$500,000

Match Requirement: None

Eligible Activities: Construction⁴

Eligible Applicants: Municipalities with Transit Village designation

For More Information: njdotlocalaidrc.com/state-funded-programs/transit-village

⁴All municipalities and counties are eligible to use up to 5 percent of their grant allotment on design.

SAFE STREETS TO TRANSIT GRANT PROGRAM

Safe Streets to Transit provides grants to improve the overall safety and accessibility for mass transit riders walking to transit facilities, encourage mass transit users to walk to transit stations, and facilitate the implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety in the vicinity of transit facilities. The program focuses on pedestrian infrastructure, such as sidewalks, but trails are eligible. Project must be located within a mile of a transit facility, with preference for projects within a half-mile.

Administered By: NJ DOT

Type of Funding: State

Award Range: Typically \$100,000–\$400,000

Match Requirement: None (although local match is a project selection criterion)

Eligible Activities: Construction⁵

Eligible Applicants: Counties and municipalities

For More Information: njdotlocalaidrc.com/state-funded-programs/safe-streets-to-transit

⁵All municipalities and counties are eligible to use up to 5 percent of their grant allotment on design.

COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL AID

County and Municipal Aid provides funds to counties and municipalities for transportation projects. Bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, such as sidewalks, bike lanes, and trails, are eligible.

Administered By: NJ DOT

Type of Funding: State

Award Range: Not specified

Match Requirement: None

Eligible Activities: Construction⁶

Eligible Applicants: Counties and municipalities

For More Information: njdotlocalaidrc.com/state-funded-programs/

⁶Right-of-way acquisition is a potentially eligible activity for municipalities eligible for Urban Aid Communities or Depressed Rural Centers, according to the Transportation Trust Fund Authority Act, or any municipality demonstrating special need. All municipalities and counties are eligible to use up to 5 percent of their grant allotment on design.

GREEN ACRES

Green Acres programs provide grants and no- and low-interest loans for land acquisition, park development, and natural resource and conservation projects on lands preserved for public recreation and conservation purposes. Trails and trail amenities, such as restrooms, are eligible for park development funds. Natural-surface trails are eligible for stewardship funding. And acquisition funds can be used to preserve lands for recreation and conservation purposes.

Administered By: NJ DEP

Type of Funding: State

Award Range: Typically \$50,000–\$1,500,000

Match Requirement: Varies (see program application)

Eligible Activities: Acquisition, environmental assessments, design,⁷ permits, and construction

Eligible Applicants: Counties, municipalities, and non-profit organizations

For More Information: www.nj.gov/dep/greenacres

⁷Counties, municipalities, and non-profit organizations may use up to 13 percent of construction costs for professional services, including engineering.

LOCAL BICYCLE/ PEDESTRIAN PLANNING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Local Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning Assistance Program offers the services of consultants with expertise in local bicycle and pedestrian planning to counties and municipalities. Consultants are retained by NJ DOT, and their services are offered free of charge to awardees. Planning activities, such as feasibility studies, are eligible.

Administered By: NJ DOT

Type of Funding: State in-kind

Award Range: N/A

Match Requirement: N/A

Eligible Activities: Planning

Eligible Applicants: Counties and municipalities

For More Information: Contact the NJ DOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Coordinator at bikeped@dot.nj.gov

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE BANK

The Transportation Infrastructure Bank provides low-interest loans to qualified municipalities, counties, and regional authorities for the purpose of financing transportation infrastructure projects. Bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, such as sidewalks, bike lanes, and trails, are eligible.

Administered By: NJ Infrastructure Bank Trust

Type of Funding: State

Loan Range: Typically \$500,000–\$10,000,000

Match Requirement: N/A

Eligible Activities: Construction

Eligible Applicants: Counties; municipalities; and municipal, county, or regional transportation authorities

For More Information: www.njib.gov/njtib

RAILS-TO-TRAILS CONSERVANCY DOPPELT FAMILY TRAIL DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Rails-To-Trails Conservancy Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund provides funding for planning, design, construction, and advocacy for multi-use trails.

Administered By: Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Type of Funding: Private

Award Range: \$5,000–\$10,000 (Community Support Grants); \$10,000–\$30,000 (Project Transformation Grant)

Match Requirement: Generally 20 percent

Eligible Activities: Planning, community engagement, design, acquisition, maintenance, and construction

Eligible Applicants: Tribes, states, counties, municipalities, and non-profit organizations

For More Information: www.railstotrails.org/our-work/grants/doppelt

PEOPLE FOR BIKES COMMUNITY GRANTS

People for Bikes Community Grants provide funding for bicycle infrastructure, including multi-use trails, mountain bike and BMX facilities, bike storage, and protected bike lanes, as well as advocacy.

Administered By: People for Bikes

Type of Funding: Private

Award Range: Up to \$10,000

Match Requirement: At least 50 percent

Eligible Activities: Advocacy, design, and construction

Eligible Applicants: Federal agencies, states, counties, municipalities, and non-profit organizations

For More Information: www.peopleforbikes.org/grants

REGIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

The DVRPC Regional Trails Program provides funding for planning, design, and construction of the Circuit Trails, Greater Philadelphia's proposed network of over 800 miles of regional multi-use trails. In addition to capital grants, DVRPC staff are also available to provide technical assistance.

Administered By: DVRPC

Type of Funding: Private

Award Range: Typically \$10,000–\$500,000

Match Requirement: Variable

Eligible Activities: Planning, acquisition, design, and construction

Eligible Applicants: States, counties, municipalities, and non-profit organizations

For More Information: www.dvrpc.org/Trails/RegionalTrailsProgram/



FUNDING PROGRAMS BY PHASE

ACQUISITION

- County and Municipal Aid*
- Green Acres
- Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund
- Regional Trails Program

PLANNING

- Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI)
- Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)
- National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance
- Local Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning Assistance Program
- Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund
- Regional Trails Program

DESIGN

- Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA)**
- Safe Routes to School (SRTS)**
- Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)
- Bikeway Grant Program***
- Transit Village Grant Program***
- Safe Streets to Transit Grant Program***
- County and Municipal Aid***
- Green Acres****
- Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund
- People for Bikes Community Grants
- Regional Trails Program

CONSTRUCTION

- Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA)
- Safe Routes to School (SRTS)
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)
- Recreational Trails Program Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)
- Bikeway Grant Program
- Transit Village Grant Program
- Safe Streets to Transit Grant Program
- County and Municipal Aid
- Transportation Infrastructure Bank
- Green Acres
- Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund
- People for Bikes Community Grants
- Regional Trails Program

*Right-of-way acquisition is potentially eligible for Urban Aid Communities, Depressed Rural Centers, or any municipality demonstrating special need.

**Starting in 2016, NJ DOT offers design assistance to TASA and SRTS awardees (see program for details).

***All municipalities and counties may use up to 5 percent of grant for design

****Counties, municipalities, and non-profit organizations may use up to 13 percent of construction costs for professional services, including engineering.

DVRPC is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for a diverse nine-county region in two states: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania; and Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Mercer in New Jersey.

DVRPC's vision for the Greater Philadelphia Region is a prosperous, innovative, equitable, resilient, and sustainable region that increases mobility choices by investing in a safe and modern transportation system; that protects and preserves our natural resources while creating healthy communities; and that fosters greater opportunities for all.

DVRPC's mission is to achieve this vision by convening the widest array of partners to inform and facilitate data-driven decision-making. We are engaged across the region, and strive to be leaders and innovators, exploring new ideas and creating best practices.

DVRPC fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related nondiscrimination mandates in all activities. For more information about DVRPC's Title VI Program or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, visit www.dvrpc.org/GetInvolved/TitleVI, call (215) 592-1800, or email public_affairs@dvrpc.org.

The authors are solely responsible for the findings and conclusions herein, which may not represent the official views or policies of the funding agencies.

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