

Committee of Jurisdiction: Transportation

Title of Resolution: Support for full funding of the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) at the authorized level of \$200 million.

Issue: Regional trail network use is changing from a recreation focus to an active transportation focus, while park agencies continue to bear the lion's share of funding for the development and operations of these networks.

Proposed Policy: NACo supports full funding of the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) and encourages Congress to develop and fund programs specifically focused on development of trail networks at the County and regional level.

Background: County park agencies, special park districts, forest preserves and other regional park authorities are often responsible for the development of the recreational trail network, which provides multi-use trails for bicyclists and pedestrians in safe settings, connecting people to parks, employment nodes, commercial districts, places of worship, and other destinations.

Historically these trails were developed for recreational purposes. But as the trails have turned into trail networks, active transportation use of these trail networks has increased significantly. Regional trail networks across the country have become the arterial component of the active transportation network. The regional trail network has been built by park agencies and competes for limited park resources.

Park agencies are experts at building safe trails, but it is unreasonable to expect park agencies to continue to bear the costs of what is becoming a transportation network. Additional federal funding for active transportation networks, and a specific focus on county and regional trail networks is needed.

The Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) was approved as part of the Infrastructure and Investments Job Act with an authorization of funding of \$200 million annually. The Fiscal Year 2023 appropriation was for \$45 million, and the president's budget flagged it to grow to \$60 million in FY 2024. The full authorized amount of \$200 million is needed for this program given its national scale.

Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impact: Full funding of the ATIIP would provide federal funds for counties to further develop regional trail networks. In addition, walking and biking promote a healthy lifestyle, reducing obesity, and improving heart function. Trails help connect people to nature, and to each other at a pace where you can stop and chat.

Sponsor:

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Additional co-sponsors to date:

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