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MEMBERS OF CONGRESS SCORE SIGNIFICANT FEDERAL INVESTMENT FOR THE CAPITAL TRAILS NETWORK AND REGION'S TRAILS, WALKING AND BIKING INFRASTRUCTURE

Sens. Cardin (D-MD), Kaine (D-VA), and Warner (D-VA), and Reps. Beyer (VA-08) and Connolly (VA-11) secured a total of \$6.9 million in Community Project Funding demonstrating federal momentum behind investments in trails, walking and biking infrastructure for Washington D.C. region

WASHINGTON, DC - The [Capital Trails Network](#), an ambitious 990-mile trail network connecting Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia, marked a significant win in the fiscal year 2023 Omnibus Appropriations Bill passed by Congress at the end of December. Sens. Cardin (D-MD), Kaine (D-VA), and Warner (D-VA), and Reps. Beyer (VA-08) and Connolly (VA-11) secured a total of [\\$6.9 million in Community Project Funding](#) to help advance the Capital Trails Network and Metropolitan Washington's trails, walking and biking infrastructure.

"The Capital Trails Coalition is extremely appreciative of the members of Congress who requested funds within their districts to advance the development of the Capital Trails Network," said Kalli Krumpos, manager of the Capital Trails Coalition. "Federal investment is imperative to creating safe, inclusive outdoor spaces to meet the increasing use and demand for multi-use trails, active transportation, and outdoor recreation options."

The new Community Project Funding is critical to filling important trail gaps and moving closer to the Capital Trails Coalition's goal of completing the remaining 400+ miles of the Capital Trails Network by 2030 and supporting walking and biking infrastructure to make it easier to access and use trails. The projects include:

- \$1 million for bicycle and pedestrian improvements to the Interstate 66 (I-66) Trail—a priority project for the Capital Trails Network—through the heart of Fairfax County, Virginia, secured by Sens. Tim Kaine and Mark Warner and Rep. Gerry Connolly
- \$1.5 million to improve multimodal transportation infrastructure, including trails, in the City of Falls Church, Virginia, secured by Rep. Don Beyer

- \$4 million for the Virginia Department of Transportation to construct a cycle path from Sunrise Valley Drive to Innovation Metro Station in Fairfax County, Virginia, secured by Sens. Tim Kaine and Mark Warner
- \$428,000 for secure bike parking facilities in downtown Bethesda and Silver Spring in Maryland, secured by Sen. Ben Cardin

“These investments in the region’s trail system and bicycle infrastructure will help create real transportation alternatives, allowing more and more destinations—be it for work, school, or recreation—to be accessed and enjoyed without a car,” celebrated Bruce Wright, President of Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling. “The trail parallel to I-66 is a vital connection, giving bicyclists and pedestrians safe, convenient access through the heart of Fairfax County. And the Sunrise Valley Drive Cycle Track will be the first such facility in the county and will provide bicycle access along and complement the recently-opened Silver Line Corridor.”

National trail use in 2022 increased 45% in comparison to 2019, demonstrating enduring demand for trails across the country, according to [recently released data from Rails-to-Trails Conservancy](#) (RTC), the nation’s largest trails advocacy organization.

The Community Project Funding for the Capital Trails Network is an example of growing momentum behind federal investments in trails and active transportation infrastructure. Dozens of community projects included in the omnibus bill support trail and active transportation infrastructure. In addition, the federal omnibus bill includes \$45 million to kick-start the [Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program \(ATIIP\)](#), a new program that provides dedicated funding for the planning and construction of safe and connected trail and active-transportation networks and long-distance spine trails.

About the Capital Trails Coalition:

The Capital Trails Coalition is a collaboration of public and private organizations, agencies, and volunteers working to advance completion of an interconnected network of multi-use trails for metropolitan Washington, DC. The Coalition convenes and coordinates among the public and private stakeholders who are critical to accomplishing the vision of an interconnected network. The network includes the District of Columbia, City of Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax counties in Virginia, and Prince George’s and Montgomery counties in Maryland.

Our vision: to create a world-class network of multi-use trails that are equitably distributed throughout the Washington D.C. metropolitan region. The regional trails network will transform public life by providing healthy, low-stress access to open space and reliable transportation for people of all ages and abilities.

The Capital Trails Coalition is managed and staffed by the [Washington Area Bicyclist Association](#), the leading bicyclist advocacy voice in the Capital region for over 50 years. It is also one of RTC’s [TrailNation™ projects](#), comprising regional trail networks that represent diverse people, places, and approaches to building connected trail systems across city, county,

and state lines. Learn about TrailNation at railstotrails.org/trailnation. For more information about the Capital Trails Coalition, visit www.capitaltrailscoalition.org.

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