

## SUPPORT THE RECREATIONAL TRAIL PROGRAM

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to join us in expressing strong support for the continuation and strengthening of the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) by signing the following letter. RTP is an FHWA-administered program, first created in the 1991 transportation bill (ISTEA) and operated through state trail programs with the active involvement of diverse trail interests through mandated state trail advisory councils. Funding is provided by taxes on fuel used in off-highway recreational vehicles.

The RTP funds mostly small but vital trail projects, including maintenance. Like most federal transportation programs, a minimum 20 percent match is required for these projects. In practice, the projects attract much greater non-federal support. RTP supports trails for both motorized and non-motorized transportation.

Continuation of the RTP has been included in the Surface Transportation Authorization Act of 2009. Our letter applauds that inclusion and further urges incorporation of funding levels at \$690 million over six years - \$90 million in 2010, \$100 million in 2011, \$110 million in 2012, \$120 million in 2013, \$130 million in 2014, and \$140 million in 2015. In addition, we are asking that \$2.5 million be allocated to a DOT study of off-highway recreational fuel use, to ensure that the level of RTP funding reflects the federal fuel taxes paid for off-highway fuel usage. Finally, we are asking that the funds allocated to the FHWA to administer the RTP each year be adjusted from a set amount to 1% of actual available annual funding to ensure that sufficient administrative resources are available for this valuable program.

We invite you to join us in signing the following letter to the leadership of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. If you have any questions or would like to sign on, please contact Shawn Legendre (Michaud) at [shawn.legendre@mail.house.gov](mailto:shawn.legendre@mail.house.gov) or (202) 225-6306. Sign on deadline is Friday, July 17th.

Sincerely,

Michael Michaud  
Member of Congress

Thomas Petri  
Member of Congress