



# TRAIL NATION

**rails-to-trails**  
conservancy





**★ TRAIL  
NATION**  
rails-to-trails  
conservancy

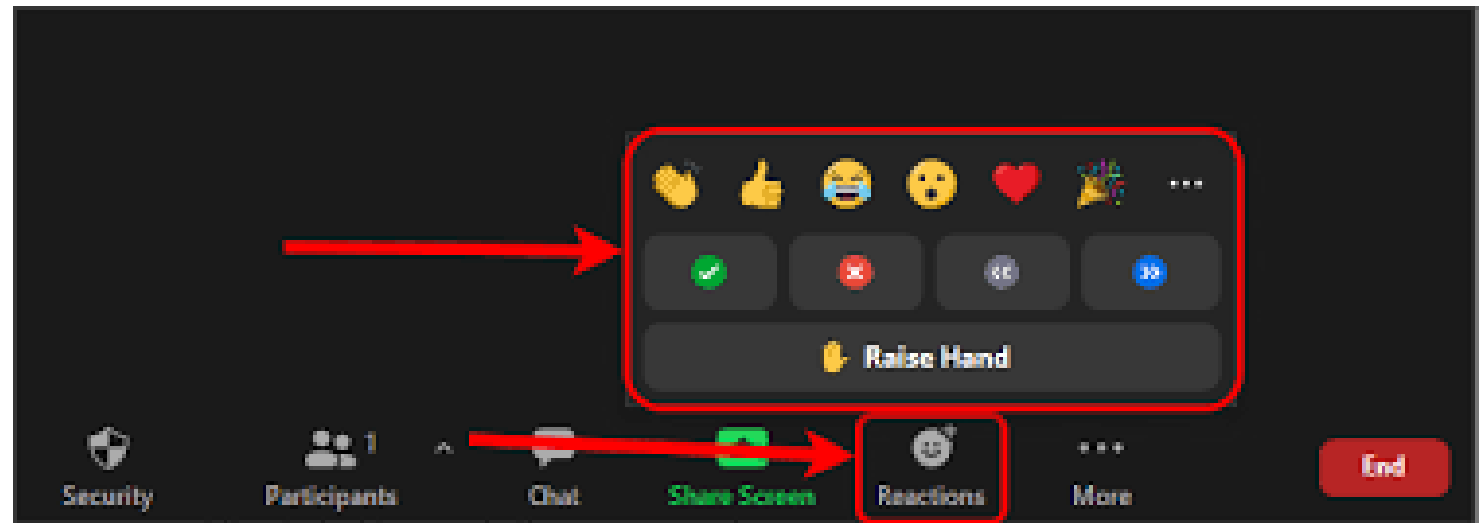
**TRAIL  
NATION**  
PROJECTS

**TRAIL  
NATION**  
PLAYBOOK

**TRAIL  
NATION**  
COLLABORATIVE

# Zoom Tools We'll Use Today

- Rename yourself (Name, State, Organization)
- Use the chat!
- Raise your hand
- Reactions



# Technical Support

- Please update your name in Zoom to include your name, state, and affiliated organization
  - Ex. Mary Ellen Koontz, D.C., Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
- Attendees will be muted until breakouts
- Please call in if you get disconnected:  
+1 301 715 8592 ; meeting ID: 823 7827 2363



# **Today's Topic: Innovations in Transportation Alternatives**

## Agenda

- Welcome
- Transportation Alternatives:
  - Policy Reforms
  - How we make the most of them
- Breakout groups
- Q&A

# Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)

- \$284 billion in *new* surface transportation spending
  - Everything up, including active transport
- Overall themes: safety, climate & equity
- Active transportation themes:
  - 'vulnerable road user' safety
  - connectivity (mode shift)
  - equitable access



# Transportation Alternatives: Top federal source \$ for trails

- Competitive grants awarded by states & urbanized regions
  - 95% goes to ped/bike/trail
  - 10 eligibilities
- IIJA: \$ +70% over 5 years



# Transportation Alternatives: Effective/accountable implementation

Key questions for states & regions

1. How well are they 'obligating' the money?
2. How equitably is it distributed?
3. How strategic and impactful are the projects funded?





# Spending Transportation Alternatives

Key metric = obligation rate  
(see TrADE report for your state)

Key policy reform: stem 'transfers'

Best practices to increase obligation:

- Political will
- Vision
- Plans



# Equitable Outcomes

Key policy reforms:

- Match flexibility
- Up to 5% for administration/technical assistance



# Strategic and Impactful Projects

## Scale of projects

- Historic avg. TA project is <\$400,000
- Opportunity: large grants for complex or multi-part projects that maximize connectivity

## Key policy reform: trail maintenance eligible

- Opportunity: cross-agency collaboration with Recreational Trails Program
- Streamlined requirements for "recreational"



# Guiding Questions

What are the challenges you've faced with Transportation Alternatives funding?

What opportunities can you identify given changes in the BIL?

*Don't forget to share your name and contact information with your group so you can follow up with each other later!*

# ENGAGE WITH THE COLLABORATIVE



- *TrailNation online dialogues*
- *Playbook in Action webinar series*
- *In-person events*
- *Online technical assistance coming soon!*

*Stay tuned to the TrailNation Collaborative Newsletter for updates and more information!*