

Future of the Recreational Trails Program: Comparison of CRT Policy with Legislation

Topic	CRT Position	Senate (S. 732) (SAFETEA)	House (H.R. 3) (TEA-LU) (109 th Congress)	Final Outcome
Overall program \$		uncertain	\$284 billion/6 years	
Funding	\$858 million for 6 years (\$143 million annually), representing 50% of estimated non-highway recreational fuel tax receipts. Funding in H.R. 3550 preferred to S. 1072	\$270,772,120 (\$54,154,424 annually for 5 years), an increase of approximately 20% from TEA-21 funding (and a substantial decrease even from the Administration's request for \$60 million annually)	\$503 million (\$53/70/80/90/100/110 million through FY2009), an increase of approximately 86% from TEA-21 funding	
Changes in spending requirements	Encourage, but not require, use of youth conservation corps and allow projects involving corps to reduce non-federal match to as little as 5%	"A State shall make available not less than 10% of the apportionments of the State to provide grants to, or to enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with, qualified youth conservation or service corps ..."	None, but TEA-21 encouragement of use of youth conservation corps incorporated	
Required non-Federal match	None	Changes 80% requirement to new formula used for most Federal aid programs	Changes 80% requirement to new formula used for most Federal aid programs	
State recreational trails advisory committees	No changes requested	None	None	

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<i>Planning and environmental assessment costs</i>	None	Pre-approval (no more than 18 months prior to approval) expenditures on planning, environmental compliance may be credited to non-Federal share of project	Pre-approval (no more than 18 months prior to approval) expenditures on planning, environmental compliance may be credited to non-Federal share of project	
<i>Legality of fees/passes for use of RTP-funded projects</i>	None	Exemption of RTP from several broad highway program provisions, including limit on tolls	None	
<i>Technical assistance to state trails programs and trail project partners</i>	RTP should receive administrative support comparable to that provided for the National Scenic Byways and Transportation Enhancements Programs (America's Byways Resource Center, TE Clearinghouse)	No specific provision, but funding for technical assistance continues to be provided for	No specific provision, but funding for technical assistance continues to be provided for	
<i>Trail patrols and training</i>	None – since funding for this purpose is now being provided	Specifically authorizes funding for non-law enforcement trail safety and trail-use monitoring patrol programs and trail-related training from 5% allowable for use on educational programs for safety and environmental protection	None	
<i>Waiver from 30/30/40 project categories requirements</i>	No change	No change	Deletes discretionary waiver provision, requested through trail advisory committees, but retains small state exemption.	