Investing in safer, more connected communities
U.S. DOT 2018 BUILD GRANT APPLICATIONS TO ADVANCE THE EAST COAST GREENWAY IN 7 STATES
A record number of East Coast Greenway BUILD applications presents an opportunity to revitalize rural areas and small towns while accelerating the development of our nation’s most popular park.

Collectively, these 11 grant applications create unprecedented potential to develop the East Coast Greenway. The partnerships of municipalities, nonprofits, and agencies are requesting more than $100 million to plan, design, and/or build more than 200 miles of Greenway in 7 states.

**About the East Coast Greenway**

The dream of a 3,000-mile protected biking and walking route, Maine to Florida, represents a commitment and opportunity in each of the 450 communities we connect: to promote healthy lifestyles, promote active tourism, enable sustainable transportation options, and foster greater civic engagement.

Our developing route, now 32 percent complete, connects 15 states and Washington D.C. along the nation’s most populated corridor. It’s a place where bicyclists, walkers, runners, wheelchair users, and more — of all ages and abilities — can feel safe commuting and enjoying accessible recreation.
“The expanded and enhanced bikeway will support current and new economic development opportunities that are crucial to our communities and to supporting our families....

“The bikeway will offer tourists and residents a safe, alternative transportation network while serving as a resource for leisure and exercise.”

BETH STEDMAN, PRESIDENT & CEO GEORGETOWN COUNTY, SC, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
With or without grant, build West Ashley bike, pedestrian bridge
*The Post and Courier, 7.29.18*

“We need it. For decades, bicyclists and pedestrians trying to cross the Ashley River bridges between downtown and West Ashley have been forced onto narrow maintenance paths just inches away from traffic. Not surprisingly, injuries are common.”

Nation’s largest walking and biking trail could be coming right through Cape Fear area
*Port City Daily, 8.6.18*

“...With portions of the East Coast Greenway already complete in Wilmington, both Pender County and Brunswick County Commissioners are prepared to pass supporting resolutions for the completion of trails through their counties and applications for the USDOT BUILD grant.”

It can happen, if we all work
*Darien (Ga.) News, 7.19.18*

“What could it mean to McIntosh County to receive this BUILD grant? It would bring multitudes of visitors to this community to see and enjoy our ‘last frontier,’ all the while by having an economic impact where those visitors would spend their dollars right here in our restaurants, inns, motels and shops. It could create the opening of small retail businesses, as well as open opportunities for tour guides, fishing guides, guided boating trips and use of our golf course...the possibilities are endless.”

*East Coast Greenway Alliance • greenway.org • Connecting people to place, Florida to Maine*
The Placemakers: Proponents say East Coast Greenway could revitalize forgotten N.C. towns
 Indy Week, 9.27.17

"...Flink likes to talk about the ‘experience economy,’ in which individuals’ desire to take part in memorable activities can be harnessed to propel an economy.

“It goes hand in glove with the Greenway: That authentic experience of place is what people are really seeking and are willing to spend money on. And North Carolina has it in spades.”

East Coast Greenway media mentions

Jack Markell Trail gives commuters a new, alternate way to travel
 Courier Express, 9.5.18

“[Our newest trail] enhances recreational options for residents and visitors, provides alternative transportation routes, and benefits the environment. We are connecting more residents and visitors to the outdoors, and it is a wonderful legacy for our current and future generations.”

The biggest infrastructure project in the U.S. is a bike path
 Quartz, 7.20.17

“As lawmakers grapple with how to fix the country’s crumbling roads, bridges, and dams, local governments are quietly at work on the East Coast Greenway, a 3,000-mile, mostly car-free bike path through 15 states.

“That path, once complete, will connect Calais, Maine to Key West, Florida.”
East Coast Greenway BUILDs Rural NC: Rural Corridor Study Project
Planning request, NC Rural Corridor Study
$750,000

This project aims to transform rural communities in North Carolina through a collaborative, innovative approach to integrating sustainable transportation and broadband infrastructure. Partners would work to close gaps in the East Coast Greenway while also installing broadband infrastructure in long underserved rural areas.

“The Greenway is good for business, good for public health, and good for transportation infrastructure.... There are many benefits for having safe walking and biking facilities available in rural areas.”

— N.C. Rep. Larry Yarborough
Brunswick County Greenway Trail: Connecting Rural Communities in Brunswick County
Construction request, Brunswick County
12.5 miles, $12.1 million

The 12.5 mile off-road multimodal greenway trail connects the municipalities of Oak Island, Boiling Spring Lakes, and St. James, part of a county-wide network of trails planned for Brunswick County. The project goals are to connect the rural communities of Brunswick County, to improve quality of life for residents, to promote economic development, and to promote the responsible use and enjoyment of our natural resources.

“We applaud the County’s commitment and due diligence efforts toward constructing the 12.5-mile off-road multimodal greenway trail ... for open public use, increasing the health and wellness of the community, enhancing local safety by moving pedestrian and bike traffic off major highways and thoroughfares, and further supporting local business and further promoting future economic development.”
— R. Thomas Sofield, Owner/Developer, Pine Forest Development Company
Durham Belt Line Trail: Connecting Communities to the Heart of Durham
Construction request, Durham, NC
$6 million

The Durham Belt Line is an envisioned multi-use trail and linear park that stretches 1.75 miles and is comprised of 17 acres of former railroad right-of-way. A .25 mile segment would become part of the East Coast Greenway. The project involves re-use of a historic railroad bridge and adapting a railroad trestle as a scenic overlook.

“The Durham Belt Line Trail will help to create more vibrant, walkable, and livable neighborhoods by attracting some of the region’s future growth to housing and commercial development planned in proximity to the corridor. I am pleased to contribute my support to this very worthy and needed project.”

— James H. Trogdon, III, Secretary of Transportation, State of North Carolina
South Carolina

Georgetown to Waccamaw Neck Bikeway
Construction request, Georgetown County, SC
8.1 miles, $14.7 million

The proposed project will connect 16 miles of existing bicycle and pedestrian paths begun in 1994 to five new segments totaling 12 additional miles, to be completed by 2025. In addition, the project will resurrect ferry service connecting Waccamaw Neck with the City of Georgetown for cyclists and pedestrians.

“The expanded and enhanced Waccamaw Neck Bikeway will support current and new economic development opportunities that are crucial to our communities and to supporting our families...[offering] tourists and residents a safe, alternative transportation network while serving as a resource for leisure and exercise.”
South Carolina

“The project meets all BUILD primary selection criteria and is ready for implementation due to an unprecedented level of support from private-public partnerships and citizenry, with a total local match of $6 million.”

Ashley River Crossing
Construction request, Ashley River Bridge, Charleston, SC
.4 miles, $16.9 million

The Ashley River Crossing is an innovative multi-modal transportation initiative to connect downtown Charleston (the largest employer area) and West Ashley (the densest residential area) in Charleston, South Carolina. Separated by the Ashley River, commuters are limited to automobile travel due to unsafe intersections, narrow sidewalks, incomplete streets, and an antiquated signal system.

The lack of alternative transportation options threatens not only the safety of citizens but also the metro area’s economic growth. Phase I of the project would better connect the West Ashley Greenway with renovations to three intersections. Phase II would build a stand-alone, multi-use bridge for non-motorized users.
Georgia

“The Highlander Trail provides a unique model for sustainable and accessible employment transportation in a rural area by linking 100% of low-income residents to more than 90% of job opportunities through a safe, dedicated bicycle path.”

The Highlander Trail of the Coastal Georgia Greenway & East Coast Greenway
Construction request, McIntosh County and City of Darien, GA
20.5 miles, $24 million

This project will accommodate unmet transportation needs in rural McIntosh County, Georgia, by providing pedestrian and cycling access. The trail will pass stunning views of saltwater creeks and marshes, historic Indian villages and Spanish missions, Civil War battles, African American communities on the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor along with sites of early settlements of Highland Scots, colonial forts, and former cotton and rice plantations, as well as extensive wildlife preserves and riverside natural areas.

U.S. Rep. Buddy Carter (left) touring the Highlander Trail outside of Darien (above): “This is a very worthwhile project. I support it wholeheartedly.”
Florida

Village Green Corridor Revitalization: Complete Street, Greenway & Economic Connectivity Project
Planning study, City of Port St. Lucie, FL
$1.5 million request

The project seeks to boost the town center and connect major commercial, industrial, health, civic, first responder, park, greenway and low-income living spaces through a complete street upgrade to the Village Green Drive corridor.

The upgraded corridor will connect the new $340 million Crosstown Parkway Extension bridge and U.S. Route 1 to major economic growth opportunities, civic and neighborhood hubs, and the East Coast Greenway.

“(We) will improve safety through complete street improvements which are critical given the rapidly growing population, incredible population density and heavy vehicle usage of this corridor.”
Florida

The Underline, Segment 6, Miami-Dade County Multimodal Mobility Corridor
Construction request, Miami, FL
2 miles, $16.4 million

This request would fund design and construction of 1.98 miles of the 10-mile planned mobility corridor known as “The Underline.” The Underline repurposes underutilized industrial space beneath the most widely used regional transit heavy rail system to improve multimodal safety and access to Metrorail and the greater regional mass transit system. Segment 6 better connects the Underline to the University Metrorail station, one of the most frequented stations along the corridor.

“Parks are social infrastructure that support quality of life for all residents...helping support a unified and economically vibrant Miami.”
Virginia

Tobacco Heritage Trail, Central Mecklenburg County Segment
Construction request, Central Mecklenburg County
16 miles, $19.5 million

Most of this trail extension would be built on former railroad right-of-way, with approximately 1.5 miles including on-road improvements. This project will continue to help stimulate economic development and tourism in Southside Virginia while also greatly enhancing quality of life on the local level. The Beaches to Bluegrass Trail, running east/west across southern Virginia, intersects with the Tobacco Heritage Trail, as does the East Coast Greenway.
Connecticut

“These transformative improvements will increase quality of life for residents in Connecticut, attract tourists to this world-class trail while providing a safe, high-quality alternative to commuting by car.”

— Laurie Giannotti, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

CTtrail Connections: Building a Network of Trails to Connect People to Jobs
Construction request, Farmington Canal Heritage Trail
5.3 miles, $16.1 million

Funds would build the key missing link in the 84-mile Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, already 95 percent separated from traffic. This project is the result of two years of collaborative planning efforts. This project aims to close the trail’s gap in Plainville, CT, and connect the trail system to the City of New Britain’s downtown station for CTfastrak, the state’s first bus rapid transit system. Together, the improvements could serve more than 20 municipalities throughout two states, providing safe mobility for commuting and recreational needs.
Redevelopment of Industrial Drive in Mattapoisett for Economic Development, Safety, and Bike/Pedestrian Accommodations

Construction request, 1.5 miles, $7 million

The project has four components, including construction of over a mile and a half of greenway to complete a 20-mile route on shared use paths and low traffic roads from New Bedford to Wareham.

“This is a smart growth rural project.”

— Stephanie Pollack, Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation