“A challenging, yet impactful year

“2020 was an incredible year. It was a really tough year for us, as it was for everyone, but we came out of that year actually deploying a lot of investment into East Coast Greenway segments,” says East Coast Greenway Executive Director Dennis Markatos-Soriano when reflecting on the challenges and successes of last year.

Thanks to the generosity of East Coast Greenway Alliance supporters, we accelerated progress and deployed $100 million of investment to complete 23 new East Coast Greenway segments in almost all of our Maine-to-Florida states. Since the East Coast Greenway Alliance was founded in 1991, $1.5 billion has been invested developing the 3,000-mile route.

Last year, exciting progress was made in Massachusetts, where 10 new miles were added to the Greenway north of Boston. Completion of the Border to Boston Trail is a key step toward developing an entirely off-road East Coast Greenway route through New England.

The City of Baltimore constructed a new 2-mile segment of the Jones Falls Trail, bringing Baltimore’s completion of the East Coast Greenway up to nearly 70 percent through the city, including about 13 miles of trail, with pending connections to the north and south of the city.

Other key projects funded in 2020 include Rhode Island’s Providence River Pedestrian Bridge, recently designated as part of the Greenway, and the Elkton Road Pathway in Delaware; design of Georgia’s Darien River Bridge; and multiple aspects of Florida’s St Johns River-to-Sea Loop.

With these additions and many more, the route surpassed 1,000 miles of completed greenway for the first time ever, and those miles were used more than ever. Thirty-five percent of our 3,000-mile route is now protected and off-road, great for little kids and grandparents alike.

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Pictured: Philadelphia’s scenic Penn Treaty Park Path earned East Coast Greenway designation in 2020 and will serve as the finish for our inaugural New York City-to-Philadelphia Greenway Ride in 2021.
“A challenging, yet impactful year” continued:

“During the pandemic, the East Coast Greenway showed itself to be an essential and equitable public space, vital to the physical and mental health of our 450 communities,” adds Markatos-Soriano. And the biking, walking and more that people did during the pandemic made the East Coast Greenway the most popular park in America.

With such tremendous momentum for continued growth and Greenway use coming out of the pandemic, the opportunity is in front of us to build a healthy, equitable and sustainable future. Together, let’s make the most of this historic moment and help lead a strong recovery.
Now is the time for Greenway Stimulus:
“There has never been a more critical moment for our nation to invest in regional trails and greenways.”

Over the past year-plus, people have almost doubled biking and walking on trails across the country, including dramatic surges along the East Coast Greenway. And people aren’t just enjoying greenways more than ever, they are calling for more.

Supporting an effort led by the East Coast Greenway Alliance, more than 200 organizations from around the United States have signed a letter to Congressional leaders calling for Greenway Stimulus – $10 billion in federal infrastructure investment in regional trails and greenways for equitable and healthy transportation and recreation. The effort has gained national-level media attention in recent months:

- “Rapid Transit Is Great. But Save Some Funding For Slow Transit,” Bloomberg Businessweek
- “Greenway Stimulus’ Could Bring Boom in Bike and Walking Trails,” Bloomberg CityLab
- “Imagine a transcontinental network of protected bike paths,” Fast Company
- “Is a Federal Greenway Act What the U.S. Needs to Recover from COVID-19?,” Streetsblog

Additionally, Senators and members of Congress are taking notice, and Alliance staff members have held meetings with a number of federal representatives. In May 2021, 18 members of Congress from nine states and Washington, D.C., collectively submitted over $150 million in funding requests to plan, design and construct segments of the Greenway via home-state earmarks.

Visit greenwaystimulus.org for more on this effort.

Below: A key East Coast Greenway bridge was installed over U.S. Route 1 in Salisbury, Massachusetts, in 2020.
Like most nonprofits, 2020 was a difficult year for the East Coast Greenway Alliance as event income fell significantly. We were able to lower our discretionary costs to finish the year in strong financial health.

**2020 revenue**
- 35% major donors
- 36% foundations
- 12% corporate
- 11% membership
- 6% events

**2020 expenses**
- 82% programs
- 10% fundraising
- 8% administration

**2020 financial summary**
- Total revenue: $1.07 million
- Total expenses: $1.11 million
- Net assets, Dec. 31, 2020: $776,000

Our full audited financial report and Form 990 was completed by Langdon & Company, LLP, and is available at greenway.org or on request.

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**Major foundation partners**
- The 1772 Foundation
- Helen & William Mazer Foundation
- Hurford Foundation
- New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
- Onion Foundation
- Pennsylvania Environmental Council
- The Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation
- Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina
- William Penn Foundation

**Major corporate partners**

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Twitter: @ECGreenway
Clockwise from upper left: Ribbon cutting for a new trail segment in Neptune Beach, Florida; the Greenway became the most visited park in America in 2020; Hundreds joined the virtual Southeast Greenways & Trails Summit, featuring artist-in-residence Sarah Crooks; With in-person events on hold, planning continued for the inaugural NYC-to-PHL Ride; Webster Bank made a 2020 contribution to support our work in Connecticut & Rhode Island; Greenway route signage installation in Cary, North Carolina; Todd Reutlinger ran the fastest known time on Maine’s 88-mile Downeast Sunrise Trail.