

SEJ Mini-Tour
Biking the Circuit: Trail Networks As a Green and Healthier Option?
April 6, 2024

During the mini-tour, a range of issues were discussed that represent the momentum behind trail networks as part of the climate solution nationally, as well as specific examples within the [Circuit Trails network](#), which will connect over 850 miles of trail across nine counties in Greater Philadelphia and southern New Jersey (411 miles are complete; a map that outlines the status of segments throughout the network is available via the Circuit Trails [website](#)).

Links to related resources are below:

- Trail Networks in the U.S.: www.railstotrails.org/trailnation#map
- Funding to accelerate trail and trail network projects, including the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program: www.railstotrails.org/funding
- The latest on investment in trails, walking and biking via the federal Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods program: www.railstotrails.org/trailblog/2024/march/14/usdot-doubles-down-on-connected-walking-and-biking-infrastructure-as-essential-to-americas-mobility/
- Benefits of active transportation networks, including a chapter on the climate impacts of making it safer and easier to walk and bike: www.railstotrails.org/atta
- Background on the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's program to further support equitable access to trails: <https://pecpa.org/news/circuit-trails-grant-program-expands/>
- PEC's gap analysis of the Circuit Trails, which highlights areas for priority investment because of the environmental and equity impacts of creating trail connections: <https://pecpa.org/circuit-trails/gap-analysis/>
- Context for the significance of the Washington Ave Pier, which we visited during the tour: <https://www.delawariverwaterfront.com/places/washington-avenue-pier>
- The East Coast Greenway, which is a developing trail between Maine and Key West, Florida: www.greenway.org