



HB 604

Establishing funding for trail maintenance and education

WHY TRAILS ARE GOOD FOR MONTANA

PUBLIC HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60% of Montanans are overweight or obese (<i>MT Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan</i>) For every \$1 spent on building walking and biking paths in Montana, we could save close to \$3 in medical expenses (<i>MT Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan</i>)
ECONOMIC VITALITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bicycle tourists contribute an estimated \$377 Million to Montana's economy (<i>Institute of Tourism and Recreation Research</i>) Trails are the most desired community amenity that homeowners seek when buying a home (<i>National Association of Home Builders, 2008</i>)
PUBLIC SAFETY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated bicycle and pedestrian paths help children get to and from school safely and help reduce childhood traffic fatalities Reduces conflicts and crashes with motor vehicles
QUALITY OF LIFE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking is the most popular recreation activity in Montana (<i>MT Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan</i>) 75% of Montanans use paths and trails for hiking, walking, jogging, and bicycling (<i>MT Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan</i>)

KEY FEATURES OF HB 604

- Establishes funding for trail maintenance and bicycle/ pedestrian education
- MDT compiles an inventory of shared use trails and develops a maintenance plan for shared use trails
- MDT conducts a public forum annually regarding shared-use trails

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

- Currently there is NO funding for trails maintenance or education
- Trails are reaching a state of disrepair
- Trail maintenance costs between \$3,000 and \$7,000 per mile per year
- Trails benefit the economy, environment, and health
- Regular maintenance extends the life of trails
- Construction of new trails may stop if there is not a means to maintain them

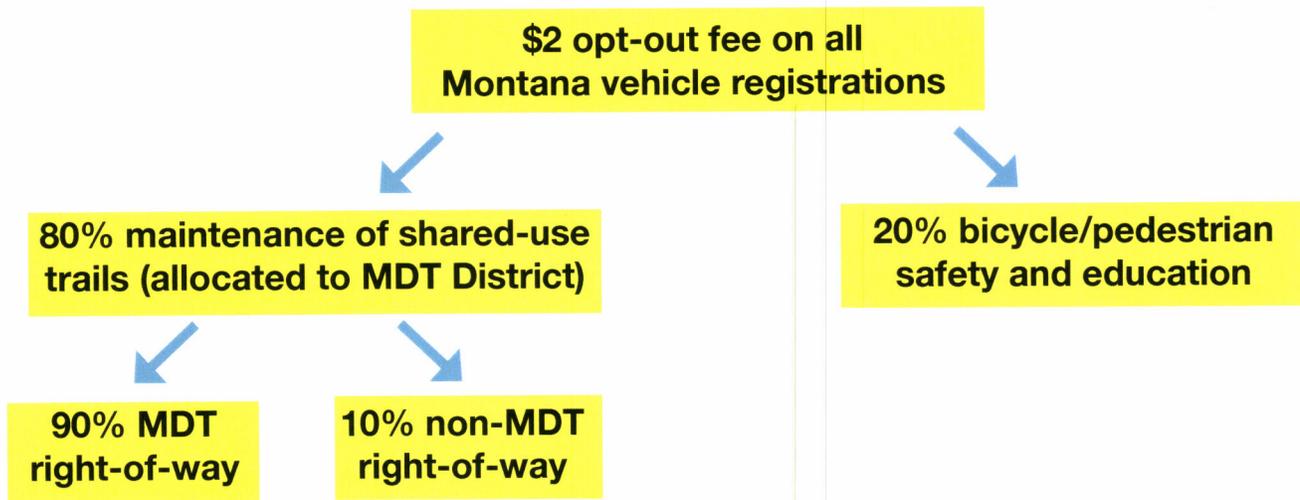


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HOW FUNDING WILL BE GENERATED AND ALLOCATED

This program would be funded by a \$2 opt-out fee on all Montana light-vehicle registrations. It is not a new tax: the “opt-out” fee is entirely voluntary. Of the funds generated, 20% will go toward bicycle and pedestrian education and 80% will be used for trail maintenance. From the trail maintenance fund, 90% will be allocated toward MDT right-of-way trails and 10% will be allocated toward non-MDT right-of-way trails. The maintenance funds will be distributed by the MDT district in which the revenue is generated (see map below).



MDT FINANCIAL DISTRICTS

