

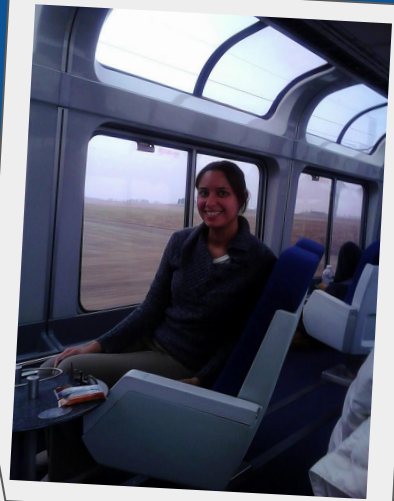


**2025 Look Ahead Webinar  
December 2024**

---

**Katherine García  
Sierra Club  
Clean Transportation for All Campaign Director**

# About Me



Katherine García, she/her/ella  
Based in Washington, DC – the ancestral home of the  
Piscataway people.

- Over 7 years of advocacy at the Sierra Club
- Member of the National Center for Sustainable Transportation Leadership Council
- Board Director for the League of American Bicyclists



1. The Moment

2. Sierra Club

3. Advocacy

4. Next Steps



## 1. The Moment

# Vehicles produce health-threatening air pollution

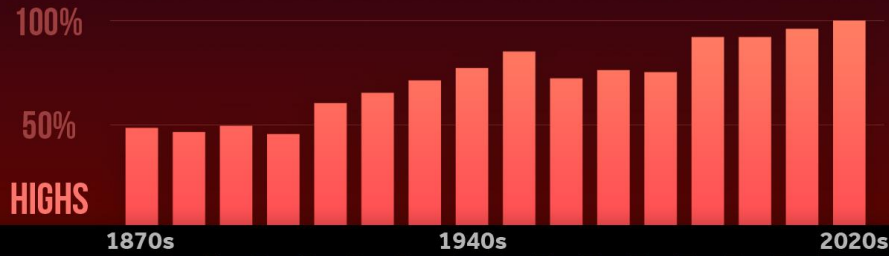
---

Unhealthy levels of air pollution can increase **asthma attacks, heart attacks and strokes, lung cancer, and premature death.**

Smog and soot air pollution caused by trucks and buses are among the greatest threats to public health for the more than **45 million people in the U.S. living within 300 feet of a major roadway or transportation facility.**

# 1. The Moment

## WASHINGTON D.C. RECORDS SET BY DECADE



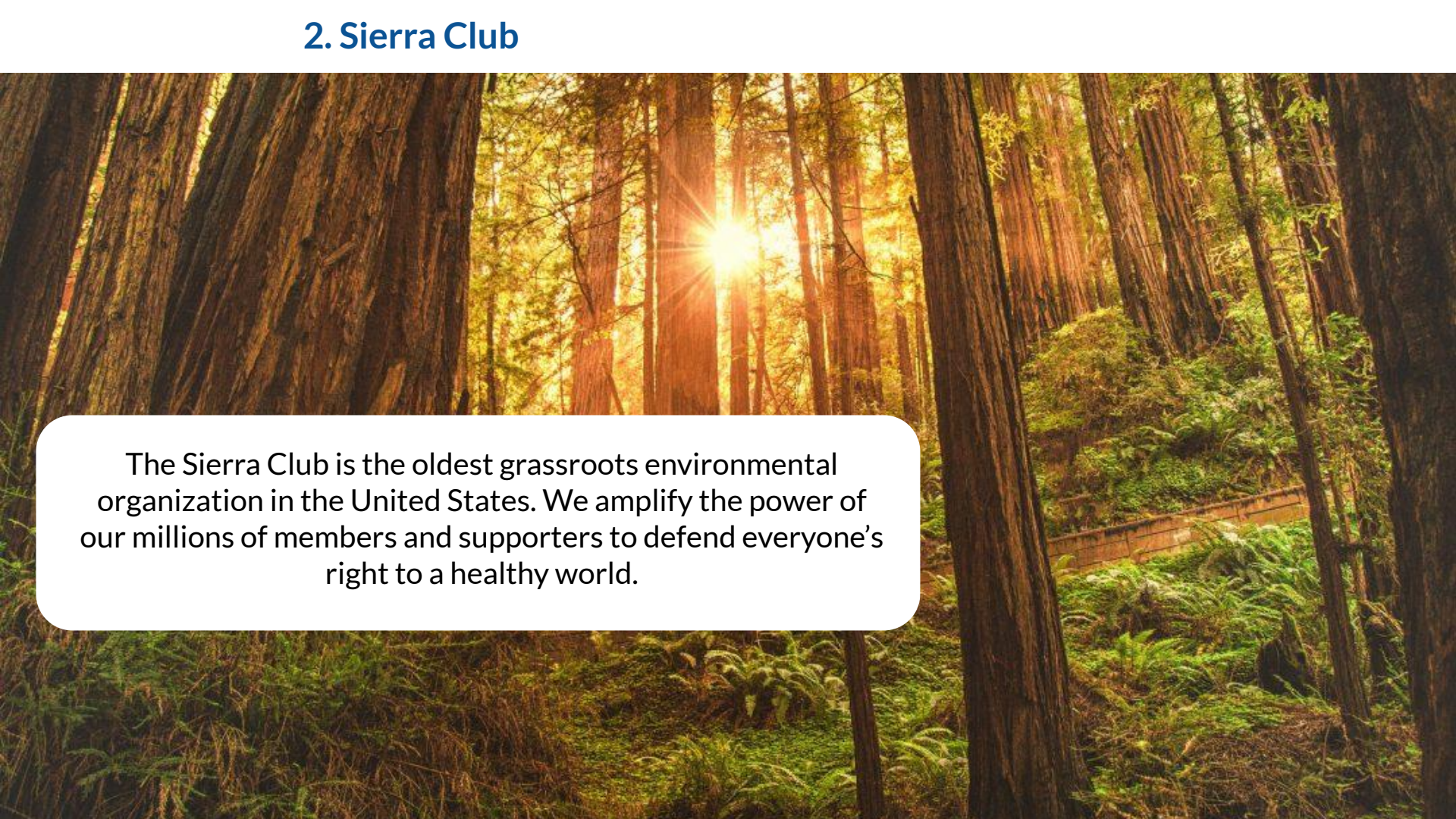
% High max & low min daily temperature records by decade (including ties) for POR through 11/18/2024  
Source: RCC-ACIS.org

CLIMATE CENTRAL

# 1. The Moment



## 2. Sierra Club



The Sierra Club is the oldest grassroots environmental organization in the United States. We amplify the power of our millions of members and supporters to defend everyone's right to a healthy world.

## 2. Sierra Club

# Clean Transportation for All Campaign Priorities

- Adopting federal and state clean vehicle regulations
- Making active transportation safer and more accessible
- Reducing freight emissions in port, railyard, and warehouse areas
- Increasing funding for zero-emission transit and school buses
- Increasing access to EV charging infrastructure powered by renewable energy
- Increasing density by adding new housing, commercial, and retail to already developed neighborhoods





# Smart Growth and Urban Infill

The Infill Task Force, made up of a team of Sierra Club staff and volunteers released the Infill Guidance for chapters and groups to use when engaging on land use issues.

A webinar series took a deeper dive into these main topics

- Land Use
- Housing Access for All
- Active Transportation and Transit
- Labor and Resilience

Since the release we have coordinated with chapters on comprehensive plans in counties and cities across the country, transit oriented development, and housing justice.

Recordings and guidance can be found at: [sc.org/infill](https://www.sierraclub.org/infill)



# Transit to Trails

The Transit to Trails campaign is a collaboration between the Outdoors for All and Clean Transportation for All campaigns:

- Build momentum for federal transit to trails legislation
- Promote the Epic Fails and Epic Trails Challenge [StoryMap](#)
- Establish new transit to trails projects and routes



# Sierra Club Rail Statement

Our statement aims to inform the public about how rail is a sustainable transportation solution and how to improve the nation's railroads.

- Passenger Rail
- Freight Rail
- Rail Labor and Education
- Rail Electrification
- Federal Railroad Policy Reform

## SIERRA CLUB RAIL TRANSPORTATION STATEMENT

AUGUST 2023



### 3. Advocacy

# Maryland

A broad coalition is advocating for the Transportation and Climate Alignment (TCA) Act

TCA would require the Maryland Department of Transportation and regional transportation planning agencies to measure and mitigate any increases in climate pollution and VMT caused by planned highway expansion projects over \$10 million.

This will help expand transportation choices while reducing climate pollution.

More info: <https://tmtcoalition.org/tca>



### 3. Advocacy

## Minnesota

Amtrak Borealis is a partnership with the Departments of Transportation in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, with funding assistance from the Federal Railroad Administration.

More than 18,500 passengers rode the Borealis during its first month of service between Saint Paul and Chicago, generating around 150 new riders per trip outside the Chicago-Milwaukee corridor.

Its success has fueled energy for advocating for a third daily train in the corridor, and other passenger rail lines in Minnesota, such as the Northern Lights Express (NLX) between Minneapolis and Duluth, MN.



## 3. Advocacy

# New York

Earlier this summer, Governor Hochul announced an “indefinite pause” of congestion pricing. Earthjustice, Sierra Club, Riders Alliance, and New York City-Environmental Justice Alliance filed a lawsuit on behalf of our collective members who need relief from the air pollution and traffic congestion, and the major MTA improvements such as elevators and faster subway services.

New York state leaders and our coalition reached an agreement to ensure that the Congestion Pricing Program will begin as scheduled on January 5, 2025.



### **NYS Department of Transportation Agrees to Begin Congestion Pricing**

Congestion Pricing Program will begin Jan. 5, 2025, aimed at reducing traffic congestion and delivering cleaner air, faster subways, and funding for necessary transit upgrades.

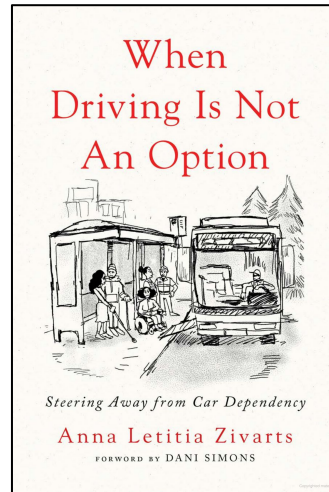
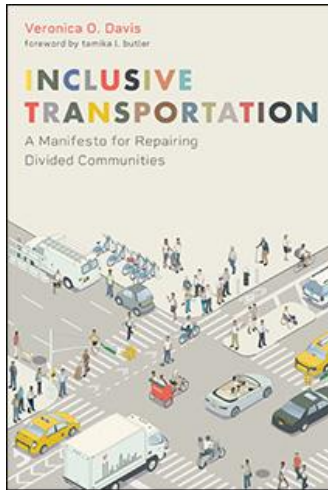
## 4. Looking Ahead



### What you can do:

- Get involved with the [Sierra Club](#)
  - Sign petitions, attend rallies, volunteer

## 4. Looking Ahead

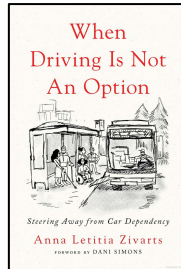
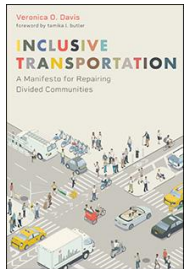


### What you can do:

- Get involved with the [Sierra Club](#)
  - Sign petitions, attend rallies, volunteer
- Learn more through current books and podcasts
  - [Inclusive Transportation](#)
  - [When Driving Is Not An Option](#)



## 4. Looking Ahead



### What you can do:

- Get involved with the [Sierra Club](#)
  - Sign petitions, attend rallies, volunteer
- Learn more through current books and podcasts
  - [Inclusive Transportation](#)
  - [When Driving Is Not An Option](#)
  - [Talking Headways](#)
  - [Arrested Mobility](#)

# Thank you!



Katherine Garcia, [katherine.garcia@sierraclub.org](mailto:katherine.garcia@sierraclub.org), [linkedin.com/in/katherinegarcia](https://www.linkedin.com/in/katherinegarcia)  
Sierra Club: [sierraclub.org](https://www.sierraclub.org)