



Chapter Six: Funding

Chapter Outline:

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6.1 Overview

Chapter 4 of this Byway Corridor Management Plan defines a wide range of facility improvements, such as new crosswalks, bicycle facilities, signage systems, landscape plantings and streetscape modifications that should be undertaken in order to make the Cape Fear Historic Byway project successful. A wide range of funding will be required to implement these facilities and to implement the marketing and promotion program described within Chapter 5 of this Plan. There is no magic bullet for funding. The Wilmington community will need to cobble together a variety of different sources of funds to build the recommended improvements and carry out the programs that are needed to support a national scenic byway. Some of these funds will come from federal sources, some from state sources. The City of Wilmington, the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization (WMPO), and the Cape Fear Historic Byway Steering Committee will need to define local sources of funds that can be used to leverage or match state and federal funding, and to implement the projects and programs defined in this Plan.

Therefore, the purpose of this section of the Corridor Management Plan is to define a list of funding sources that the project partners should pursue to finance facility development and program implementation. Some examples of successful funding are provided to illustrate where such financing has been used to support other similar endeavors in North Carolina. The project partners need to determine who will lead the effort to solicit requests for funding and to match facility development and program budgets to available sources.

6.2 Federal, State and Local Sources

National Scenic Byways Grant-Eligible Projects

Through the National Scenic Byways Program, various elements of the Cape Fear Historic Byway are eligible for funding. The federal share normally associated with Scenic Byway projects is 80 percent of total cost. The following projects are eligible for National Scenic Byway Grant funding:

- Activities related to the planning, design, or development of a scenic byway program.
- Implementation of a Corridor Management Plan (CMP) that maintains scenic, historic, cultural, recreational, natural and archaeological characteristics of the byway, while providing for increased tourism and related amenities.
- Safety improvements to the byway corridor, to the extent that these are necessary to accommodate increased roadway traffic and changes in vehicle type using the roadway resulting from designation of the byway.
- Construction of a scenic byway facility for pedestrians and bicyclists, rest areas, turnouts, road improvements, overlooks and interpretive areas.
- Improvements that enhance recreation, including water-related recreation.

- Protection of scenic, historic, cultural, natural, recreational and archaeological resources within and adjacent to the byway corridor.

- Implementation of the byway marketing plan and program.

North Carolina’s Scenic Byway funding comes from the Surface Transportation Improvement Program. However, there is no direct set aside within the program for any specific project or region of the state. Examples of recent North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) funding for byway projects in North Carolina includes: 1) Outer Banks Scenic Byway: NCDOT is funding improvements to a rest area, that includes parking, restrooms and lobby, with a total budget of \$250,000; and 2) Blue Ridge Parkway: NCDOT is purchasing scenic easements to protect viewsheds along the Parkway. Within the 2007-2013 TIP, NCDOT has allocated \$2.6 million to implement elements of the statewide Scenic Byway program.

Surface Transportation Act (SAFETEA LU)

The single largest source of funding for the Cape Fear Historic Byway is likely to come from the broader SAFETEA-LU program. The byway can be thought of as a streetscape improvement program, with an orientation toward improving multiple modes of travel within the corridor. As such, different elements of SAFETEA-LU support facility development recommendations defined in Chapter 4. The way in which these funds are accessed is to have them included in the WMPO list of priority projects and to work with NCDOT Division 3 to tap eligible funds for

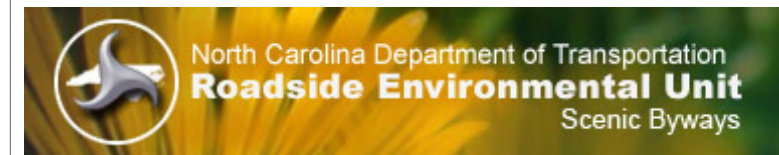
facility development. The following are subsections of SAFETEA-LU that should be further explored by the WMPO as specific sources of project funding. These will require a 20% local match for funding.

1) Surface Transportation Program (STP)

This is the largest single program within SAFETEA-LU from a funding point of view. In North Carolina, the 2007–2013 STIP comprises 3,604 projects totaling \$12.3 billion, which includes 2,516 highway projects totaling \$10.4 billion, 984 public transportation projects totaling \$1.8 billion and 104 aviation projects totaling \$62.3 million. Of particular interest to the scenic byway are the funds that have been designated for Transportation Enhancements (TE) activities, including landscape improvements, on-road bicycle and pedestrian improvements, off-road greenway trails, signage, mapping and historic preservation projects. Examples of funded projects under this category are very broad and include every type of roadway or highway improvement. Under the Bicycle and Pedestrian funding, New Hanover County recently received a grant to fund construction of a bike path, connecting the River-to-Sea Trail with Eastwood Road Bike Path. Other examples include roadway resurfacing projects, bridge replacement, signalization, installation of intersection improvements and drainage improvements.

2) Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

The Recreational Trails Program is specifically set up to fund both motorized and non-motorized trail development. Under SAFETEA-LU funding is established at \$370 million (nationally) for the five-year term of the legislation. At least 30% of these funds must be spent on non-motorized trails. In North Carolina,



Our Vision: All citizens of North Carolina and visitors to the state will be able to walk and bicycle safely and conveniently to their chosen destinations with reasonable access to roadways.

Contact info for NCDOT-DBPT:

Mr. Tom Norman, Director,
NCDOT-DBPT
1 South Wilmington Street,
Raleigh, NC 27602
(919) 733-2804.
E-mail: tnorman@dot.state.nc.us

DBPT web site:
www.ncdot.org/transit/bicycle/about/about_intro.html.

Division offices:
www.ncdot.org/contact/findcounty/.



SafeRoutes
National Center for Safe Routes to School



SRTS Contact Info:
Leza W. Mundt, AICP
Safe Routes to School Coordinator
Office of the Secretary
NC Dept of Transportation
Transportation Building
1501 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1501
Phone: 919-733-2520 Fax: 919-733-9150
E-mail: lmundt@dot.state.nc.us

this program is administered by NC State Parks, Trails Division. In 2008, \$1.3 million is available for funding. A 20% match is required of each grant recipient. Applications must be submitted by January 31st of the eligible year. The next round of applications are due January 31, 2009. Examples of projects funded by this program include: Master Plan for the North Carolina Mountains-to-Sea Trail in Johnston County, including detailed planning for Town of Smithfield and Town of Clayton. Go to http://www.ncparks.gov/About/grants/trails_grant.php to download the grant application.

3) Safe Routes to School Program (SR2S)

A new program under SAFETEA-LU is the Safe Routes to School (SR2S) program, with \$612 million (nationally) in funding during the term of the legislation. This is an excellent new program, that within North Carolina will be paired with a variety of health and wellness programs, to increase funding for access to the outdoors for children. Each state will receive no less than \$1 million in funding, with 10% to 30% of the funds allocated to non-infrastructure activities. North Carolina is scheduled to receive approximately \$15 million in Safe Routes to School (SRTS) funding, allocated as a part of the 2005 SAFETEA-LU legislation. Currently, North Carolina is funding a variety of planning grants to support program goals. The Wilmington MPO should apply for these grants to support further planning and design work of the Cape Fear Historic Byway for project elements that also support the SR2S program. Go to http://www.ncdot.org/transit/bicycle/saferoutes/funding/funding_intro.html for more information about this program.

North Carolina Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is the largest source of federal money for park, wildlife, and open space land acquisition. The program's funding comes primarily from offshore oil and gas drilling receipts. In North Carolina alone, the LWCF program has provided more than \$75 million in matching grants to protect land and support more than 875 state and local park projects. More than 38,500 acres have been acquired with LWCF assistance to establish a park legacy in our state. The program provides up to 50 percent of the cost of a project, with the balance of the funds paid by grant recipients. These funds can be used for outdoor recreation projects, including acquisition, renovation, and development. This program is administered by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources as a reimbursable, 50/50 matching grants program. Grants for a maximum of \$250,000 in LWCF assistance are awarded yearly to county governments, incorporated municipalities, public authorities and federally recognized Indian tribes. Go to http://www.ncparks.gov/About/grants/lwcf_grant.php to download a grant application. Currently, no funding has been announced for this program in 2008. For more information contact the trust fund's central office. Email: John.Poole@ncmail.net, or call (919) 715-2662. An example of a funded project is Greenfield Lake Park improvements totaling \$104,567, sponsored by the City of Wilmington.

North Carolina's Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF)

The Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) was established by the General Assembly in 1996. At the end of each fiscal year, 6.5% of the unreserved credit balance in North Carolina's General Fund (or a minimum of \$30 million) will go into the CWMTF. Revenues from the CWMTF are then allocated in the form of grants to local governments, state agencies and conservation non-profits to help finance projects that specifically address water pollution problems. A 21-member, independent, CWMTF Board of Trustees has full responsibility over the allocation of moneys from the Fund. CWMTF funds projects that (1) enhance or restore degraded waters, (2) protect unpolluted waters, and/or (3) contribute toward a network of riparian buffers and greenways for environmental, educational, and recreational benefits.

Example of funded projects includes: a 2006 grant of \$1.6 million to the NC Museum of Art in Raleigh to help manage stormwater runoff from 52 acres of land that included mixed urban uses, managed lands and natural areas. The money was used to restore a stream, create a retention pond and created a forested marsh. The funding was combined with other sources to build a bike path and install artwork.

North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) -

Established in 1993. Funded by 75% of state deed excise stamp tax revenues: state parks receive 65%; local parks, 30%; beaches & waterfronts, 5%; and administration, 3%. About \$23 M is available each year. Managed by Board of Trustees of the Parks & Recreation Authority and the Division of Parks & Recreation (DPR) in DENR. Since 1995, local governments have submitted 599 applications requesting over \$84 million for capital improvements and land acquisition. The Parks & Recreation Authority has approved 317 projects for a total of \$48.4 M. Over 1950 acres have been added to local parks. A 1:1 match is required. The deadline for applications is January 31st of the eligible year. The Parks & Recreation Authority selects local grant recipients in early May and July of each year. Contact Robin Munger at DPR at 919-715-2661 Web site: <http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/partfund>. Examples of funded projects include a 2006 grant award to the City of Raleigh for the Walnut Creek Wetland Park Interpretive Center, a 2006 grant award of \$500,000 to the Town of Hillsborough for Phase I of its Riverwalk, and a \$99,000 2007 grant to Oak Island for a Teen Center.



Contact info for the CWMTF:

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530 N. Wilmington St.

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E-mail: richard.rogers@ncmail.net

http://www.ncparks.gov/About/grants/pics/partf_trial_logo.gif



Contact info for Adopt-a-Trail:

*Darrell McBane
State Trails Coordinator
12700 Bayleaf Church Road
Raleigh, NC 27614
(919) 846-9991*

*Web site:
<http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/trails/home.html>.
E-mail:
darrell.mcbane@ncmail.net.*

North Carolina Natural Heritage Trust Fund

Established in 1987, the North Carolina Natural Heritage Trust fund provides supplemental funding to select state agencies for the acquisition and protection of important natural areas, to preserve the state's ecological diversity and cultural heritage, and to inventory the natural heritage resources of the state. The trust fund is supported by 25% of the state's tax on real estate deed transfers and by a portion of the fees for personalized license plates. Since its creation, the trust fund has contributed more than \$136 million through 345 grants to support the conservation of more than 217,000 acres. Conserving North Carolina's natural and cultural heritage now is critical. The Natural Heritage Trust Fund invests in North Carolina's most significant natural areas, strengthening communities and the economy.

Grants are awarded for:

- The purchase of lands that represent the state's ecological diversity to ensure their preservation and conservation for recreational, scientific, educational, cultural and aesthetic purposes;
- The purchase of additions to state parks, state trails, aesthetic forests, wild and scenic rivers, fish and wildlife management areas;
- The development of a balanced state program of historic properties; and
- The inventory and conservation planning of natural areas by the Natural Heritage Program.

The Board currently meets twice a year, once in the Spring (March / April) and once in the Fall (September) to review applications and make awards. Applications are due March 1st of the eligible year. Contact: Lisa Riegel, Executive Director. 521 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh, NC 27604. (919) 715-8014. Web site: www.ncnhtf.org. E-mail: nc.nhtf@ncmail.net. Examples of funded projects include a 2007 \$400,000 grant to the City of Durham for the preservation of 100 acres of the Stagville State Historic property and a 2007, \$20,000 grant to Alamance County for preservation of a 1.5 acre parcel of land for the Alamance Battlefield site.

North Carolina Adopt-a-Trail Grants

Operated by the Trails Section of the NC Division of State Parks, annual grants are available to local governments for trail and facility construction. Grants are generally capped at about \$5,000 per project and do not require a match. The Adopt-A-Trail grant program awards \$135,000 annually to local governments, nonprofit organizations and private trail groups for trails projects. The funds can be used for trail building, trail signage and facilities, trail maintenance, trail brochures and maps, and other related uses. Applications for funding may be obtained by contacting a regional trails specialist or the State Trails Program at (919) 715-8699. Applications are typically due in February of the eligible year.

North Carolina Division of Water Quality - 319 Program Grants

By amendment to the Clean Water Act Section in 1987, the Section 319 Grant program was established to provide funding for efforts to curb non-point source (NPS) pollution, including that which occurs through stormwater runoff. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides funds to state and tribal agencies, which are then allocated via a competitive grant process to organizations to address current or potential NPS concerns. Funds may be used to demonstrate best management practices (BMPs), establish Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for a watershed, or to restore impaired streams or other water resources. In North Carolina, the 319 Grant Program is administered by the Division of Water Quality of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Each fiscal year North Carolina is awarded nearly \$5 million dollars to address non-point source pollution through its 319 Grant program. Thirty percent of the funding supports ongoing state non-point source programs. The remaining seventy percent is made available through a competitive grants process. At the beginning of each year (normally by mid-February), the NC 319 Program issues a request for proposals with an open response period of three months. Approximately \$880,000 is available statewide for distribution to grant recipients.

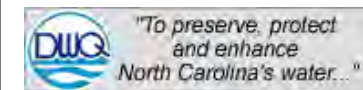
Grants are divided into two categories: Base and Incremental. Base Projects concern research-oriented, demonstrative, or educational purposes for identifying and preventing potential NPS areas in the state, where waters may be at risk of becoming impaired. Incremental projects seek to restore streams or other portions of watersheds that are already impaired and not presently satisfying their intended uses. State and local governments, interstate and intrastate agencies, public and private nonprofit organizations,

and educational institutions are eligible to apply for Section 319 monies. An interagency workgroup reviews the proposals and selects those of merit to be funded.

HUD and Small Cities Community Development Block Grants

CDBG funds are allocated through the NC Department of Commerce, Division of Community Assistance. These funds can be used to promote economic development and to serve low-income and moderate-income neighborhoods. The Cape Fear Historic Byway passes through areas of Wilmington that may qualify for these funds, especially if these areas are part of a community's economic development plan. Recreational areas that serve to improve the quality of life in lower income areas may also qualify. Approximately \$50 million is available statewide to fund a variety of projects. Wilmington is one of 23 entitlement cities in North Carolina that can receive funds directly from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Contact: Division of Community Assistance, Community Development Block Grant Program 1307 Glenwood Avenue, Suite 250, Raleigh, NC 27605 (919) 733-2850. Web site: www.ncdca.org/cdbg. E-mail: dino@nccommerce.com.



Contact infor for 319 Grants:

North Carolina DWQ
512 N. Salisbury St.
Raleigh, NC 27604

(919) 733-7015

Web site:

www.h2o.enr.state.nc.us/nps/Section_319_Grant_Program.htm

E-mail:

kimberly.nimmer@ncmail.net



Department of Commerce Tourism Matching Program

The Tourism Matching Funds grant program assists statewide, regional and local marketing organizations and some governmental entities in marketing their areas as travel destinations. An important part of North Carolina's marketing program, the Matching Funds program is open to any statutorily empowered tourism marketing agency or legally chartered non-profit North Carolina organization that includes tourism promotion among its major activities. In 2007, the State distributed \$130,000 in matching grants to 29 tourism-based marketing initiatives. An example of one of these grants was a \$3,400 grant to Washington, NC to promote its downtown waterfront. Go to the following web site for more information: <http://www.nccommerce.com/en/TourismServices/PromoteTravelAndTourismIndustry/>

Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program

The program operates as a cooperative partnership between the NC Division of Forest Resources and the USDA Forest Service, Southern Region. It offers small grants that can be used to plant urban trees, establish a community arboretum, or other programs that promote tree canopy in urban areas. To qualify for this program, a community must pledge to develop a street-tree inventory, a municipal tree ordinance, a tree commission, and an urban forestry-management plan. All of these can be funded through the program. For more information, contact the NC Division of Forest Resources.

Greenways are a specific category within this program. Naturalization Projects or Greenway Development. These types of projects can be combined with tree planting, where native species are used and environmental benefits to the community are emphasized. Planning and development, assessments and studies, maps and drawings, promotional and educational materials may be eligible for funding when matched with a solid volunteer and in-kind staffing match. Forest buffers, connecting corridors between fragmented wooded areas, riparian buffers/protection, or reduction of mowing maintenance in municipal parks through edge naturalization, are some naturalization projects that will be considered for grants. Approximately \$200 thousand is available each year for grant recipients. Examples of projects funded in 2007 include a Community Forest Management Plan for Matthews, NC, A Comprehensive Tree Inventory and Management Plan for Bath, NC, and a Tree Preservation Ordinance for the Town of Indian Trail.

Contact: Nancy Stairs, Urban Forestry Program Coordinator, NC Division of Forest Resources, 1616 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1616. Web site: www.dfr.state.nc.us/urban/urban_grantprogram.htm. E-mail: Nancy.Stairs@ncmail.net

