

APPENDIX D — Funding for Rail-Trail Development in North Carolina

FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCES

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)

SAFETEA-LU is federal transportation legislation that provides for funding to enhance communities including improvement of non-motorized transport, trails, and greenways. While SAFETEA-LU is federal legislation, the North Carolina Department of Transportation makes funding decisions for North Carolina-based projects.

Throughout the course of the Transportation Enhancements Program (TE), about North Carolina has been awarded over \$250 million for more than 800 projects (FY 1992-2006). There are twelve categories funded under this program, which includes the conversion of abandoned railroad corridors into bicycle and pedestrian paths. TE projects must be one of 12 eligible activities and must relate to surface transportation. Funding category #8 is for the conversion of abandoned railway corridors to trails and can be used for acquisition of railroad rights-of-way; planning, design and construction of multi-use trails and rail-with-trail projects. Since 1992, NCDOT has awarded over \$8 million specifically for the conversion of railroad corridors into trails.

The TE program in North Carolina is a reimbursement program, and project sponsors are required to provide a 20% cash match for the cost of the project; in-kind donations are not permitted.

Sampson County lies within the Eastern Region (Division 3) of the NCDOT TE Program.

For more information:

www.ncdot.org/financial/fiscal/Enhancement

www.enhancements.org/profile/profile_search.php

Contacts:

State DOT TE Coordinator
Debbie Vick
Interim Enhancement Administrator
North Carolina Department of Transportation
1514 Mail Service Center
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Tel: 919.715.5522 / Fax: 919.715.5888
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FHWA Division TE Coordinator
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NC Division
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Raleigh, NC 27601
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NATIONAL RECREATIONAL TRAILS FUNDING PROGRAM

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) provides funds for both motorized and non-motorized trail development. This program is part of SAFETEA-LU and is administered by the North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) which estimates a total funding pot of \$1.6 million for 2008. The application process is open to federal, state and local government entities and nonprofit organizations. RTP is a reimbursement program that requires a 25% cash or in-kind match and has a \$75,000 project cap. The program is managed by the Division of Parks and Recreation within the DENR. Regional specialists assist in the grant application process. Sampson County lies within the Coastal Region. Appropriate contact below.

For more information:

<http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/trails/grant.html>

Contact:

Ann Coughlin

East District Office

345-B Park Entrance Road

Seven Springs, NC 28578

Tel: 919.751.2792 Fax: 919.778.9589

E-mail: ann.coughlin@ncmail.net

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF)

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is administered by the North Carolina DENR and funds the planning, acquisition, and development of land for federal and non-federal (state-side) outdoor recreation. State agencies and municipalities are eligible for state-side LWCF which can generally be used to acquire land, build and repair recreation or park facilities, provide biking and hiking trails, and enhance recreational access. The program matches up to 50 percent of the total project cost.

Contact:

www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/lwcf/home1.html

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Safe Routes to School is a federal program administered by NCDOT, Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation that facilitates the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools. The Seaboard Coast Trail project is unique in that it intersects or is in close proximity to several schools. Schools, school districts, municipalities, local or regional governments can request SRTS funds, which do not have a match requirement.

Contact:

Leza Mundt, AICP,

Safe Routes to School, Coordinator

401 Oberlin Rd, Suite 250

Raleigh, NC 27605

Mailing Address:

1552 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-1553

Tel: 919.807.0777 / Fax: 919.807.0768

E-mail: lwmundt@dot.state.nc.us

STATE FUNDING SOURCES

ADOPT-A-TRAIL GRANT PROGRAM (AAT)

Through the North Carolina Trails Program, NC DENR's Division of Parks and Recreation awards \$108,000 annually to government agencies, non-profit organizations and private trail groups for trail development and maintenance related uses. No local match is required.

For more information:

http://ncparks.gov/About/grants/trails_grant.php

Contact:

Ann Coughlin

East District Office

345-B Park Entrance Road

Seven Springs, NC 28578

Tel: 919.751.2792 / Fax: .919.778.9589

E-mail: ann.coughlin@ncmail.net

NORTH CAROLINA PARKS AND RECREATION TRUST FUND (PARTF)

A state Parks and Recreation Authority allocates 30% of this annual fund to local governments for the development of parks and recreation. The fund awards dollar-for-dollar matching grants to local governments for the use of land acquisition and park improvement. In the case of land acquisition, the appraised value of any donated land can be used as an in-kind match. PARTF grants are managed and awarded by NC DENR's Division of Parks and Recreation.

For more information:

www.ncparks.gov/About/grants/partf_main.php

Contact:

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Recreation Resource Service Officer (Southeast Region)

DENR Regional Office

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