

## **ARRA Transportation Enhancement Projects**

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 provided \$20.8 Million for Transportation Enhancement Projects. The funds were only available for Transportation Enhancement Projects.

The focus in Virginia for selecting Enhancement ARRA projects was to identify a few large, regionally significant trail projects that were showing good progress and could utilize these funds to construct a major segment within the established timeframe. Many of the projects selected cross numerous locality boundaries and link to other pedestrian/bicycle facilities. Completion of these projects will provide increased opportunities for pedestrian and bicycle travel throughout Virginia.

### **Summary of Proposed Enhancement Projects for 2009 Recovery Act Package**

#### **Virginia Capital Trail**

The Virginia Capital Trail (VCT) will provide a pedestrian/bicycle facility along Route 5 (a designated Virginia Byway) from Virginia's colonial capital at Williamsburg to the present capital in Richmond. The trail is approx. 50 miles in length and the James City County sections of the trail have been completed and are open to the public. The bridge section that crosses the Chickahominy River and a section in Charles City County are currently under construction and should be completed by July, 2009. The VCT is a designated National Recreational Trail and part of both the TransAmerica Bike Route and the East Coast Greenway. The proposed project below is the last of the 8 segments to be funded.

- New Market Heights – a 12 mile section from the intersection of Kimages Road in Charles City County to 0.2 mile east of Route 295  
*ARRA Funds = \$8,183,835*

Further information about the overall project is available at: [Virginia Capital Trail Foundation](#)

#### **Tobacco Heritage Trail**

The Tobacco Heritage trail is a 160 mile system of long distance multi-use non-motorized trails primarily following abandoned rail corridors through five Southside Virginia counties (Mecklenburg, Brunswick, Halifax, Lunenburg, and Charlotte). The initial part of the trail to be completed will be a 16 mile segment from the Town of Lawrenceville to the Town of La Crosse. The first phase of that section is now out for construction bids; the section shown below will complete that trail segment.

- Lawrenceville to Brodnax (Brunswick County)  
*ARRA Funds = \$6,000,000*

Further information about the overall project is available at:  
<http://www.tobaccoheritagetrail.org/>

### **Roanoke River Greenway**

The Roanoke River Greenway is a 31 mile bicycle/pedestrian trail through the entire Roanoke Valley, linking the Cities of Roanoke and Salem, Roanoke County, and the Town of Vinton, with ties to Montgomery and Franklin Counties. The greenway will provide linkage to neighborhoods, industrial facilities, business complexes, fifteen parks, three schools, and the Blue Ridge Parkway. After working closely with the Roanoke Valley Greenway Coordinator, it was determined that localities involved would benefit most by focusing funding on one or both sections shown below.

- City of Roanoke - Trail connection to the Tinker Creek Greenway and completion of the Roanoke River Greenway up to the Roanoke County line  
*ARRA Funds = \$ 1,400,000*
- City of Salem - Route 419 to Cook Drive  
*ARRA Funds = \$600,000*

Further information about the overall projects is available at:

<http://www.greenways.org/docs/RoanokeRiverGreenwayStatusMap.pdf>

### **High Bridge Trail**

This is a 34.3 mile multi-use trail being constructed on abandoned Norfolk-Southern Railway RW from The Town of Pamplin to the Town of Burkeville. The last train to use the line was in October, 2004 and in December, 2006 this 34 mile section of rail line was donated to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The trail gets its name from the historic High Bridge and is being developed by the DCR as a state park. Communities benefiting from this park, other than those previously mentioned, include the counties of Prince Edward, Cumberland, Appomattox and Nottoway; and the Town of Farmville. DCR currently has completed several sections of the trail and the bridge reconstruction section shown below will be the final and most critical section of the trail.

- High Bridge Reconstruction
  - 2400 feet in length and 160 feet above the Appomattox River
  - Constructed in 1853 - Played a strategic role in the Route of Lee's Retreat (1865)
  - Replaced in 1914 but the original stone pillars remain*ARRA Funds = \$2,000,000*

Further information about the overall project is available at: [High Bridge Trail State Park](#)

### **Dismal Swamp Canal Trail**

The City of Chesapeake's existing 8.5 mile Dismal Swamp Canal Trail is an adaptive reuse of the former U.S. 17 alignment. A proposed northern extension will connect this popular bicycle, walking and equestrian path with residential areas in Chesapeake. In addition, Chesapeake plans to extend the trail south to connect with North Carolina's existing 4.5 mile section of the Dismal Swamp Canal Trail, which connects to the Dismal Swamp Canal Welcome Center and the village of South Mills, NC. The Dismal Swamp Canal Trail is also part of the East Coast Greenway network.

- City of Chesapeake – Northern Extension of the Dismal Swamp Canal Trail  
*ARRA Funds = \$1,300,000*

Further information on Chesapeake's Dismal Swamp Canal Trail is available at: [Dismal Swamp Canal Trail](#)

### **The Valley Pike (Old Route 11) Project**

The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation (SVBF) is planning construction of a trail network to connect the Fisher's Hill battlefield with the Town of Strasburg and the Cedar Creek-Belle Grove National Park. The completed trail will establish a non-motorized greenway for pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians, interpreting the historic Valley Pike and surrounding battlefields. The total length of the proposed trail system is approximately 10 – 12 miles.

The overall project will include stabilizing and restoring the remaining historic bridges, road traces, and fortifications along the historic Valley Pike; providing interconnecting, non-motorized shared-use trails; as well as providing interpretation of these sites utilizing kiosks, exhibit shelters, and Virginia Civil War Trails signage and pull-offs. The interpretation will focus on the importance of the Shenandoah Valley as a national transportation corridor, the importance of the Valley as a major 19<sup>th</sup> century transportation facility that promoted the Valley's economic prosperity, and the importance of the region to the conduct of the Civil War.

- Shenandoah County – Construction of Multi-Use Trail  
*ARRA Funds = \$850,000*

Further information about the overall project is available at:  
<http://www.shenandoahatwar.org/>

### **Pedestrian Pathways in Semper Fidelis Memorial Park**

The National Museum of the Marine Corps will be the centerpiece of a complex of facilities called the Marine Corps Heritage Center. This multi-use, 135-acre campus will include the Semper Fidelis Memorial Park and Chapel; a demonstration area with parade grounds; hiking trails and other outdoor recreational offerings; a conference center and hotel; and an archive facility to restore and preserve Marine artifacts.

Since its opening in November, 2006 over 1 million visitors have visited the museum. The planned pedestrian pathways, which will connect to Prince William County's Locust Shade Park and to the Kings Highway, will enhance the educational and tourism experience of the Museum and provide the public an additional trail system. The final system will provide nearly one (1) mile of pedestrian facilities.

- Prince William County – Construction of walkways at the Marine Corps Heritage Center

*ARRA Funds = \$500,000*