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The program also provided technical assistance to trail developers, counties, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations. In total, the Regional Trails Program will add 20 miles to the Circuit and move additional miles of trail from planning to final design.

OTHER RESOURCES
American Trails/National Trails Training Partnership: Funding & Resources – www.americantrails.org/resources/funding/index.html
Rails to Trails Conservancy: Financing/Funding - www.railstotrails.org/ourWork/trailBuilding/toolbox/informationSummaries/funding_financing.html

FUNDING TRAILS
A GUIDE TO FUNDING MULTI-USE TRAILS IN NEW JERSEY
APRIL 2014
THE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) IS THE REGIONALLY AGREED UPON LIST OF PRIORITY TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS AS REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW, ADMINISTERED BY DVRPC. THE TIP LISTS ALL CAPITAL PROJECTS THAT INTEND TO USE FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDS. THE TIP IS A MULTIMODAL PROGRAM AND INCLUDES MULTIPLE-USE TRAIL PROJECTS. PLACEMENT ON THE TIP IS OFTEN A CRUCIAL STEP IN SECURING TRANSPORTATION FUNDS FOR A PROJECT. WORKING COLLABORATIVELY, DVRPC’S MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES DEVELOP THE TIP AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FORMALLY SUBMITTING CANDIDATE PROJECTS. THEREFORE, PROJECT SPONSORS AND ADVOCATES SHOULD COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH ONE OR MORE OF THESE ENTITIES TO PREPARE A PROJECT FOR INCLUSION IN THE TIP.

THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING, THE TIMING OF APPLICATION PROCESSES, AND MATCH AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS VARY AMONG THESE PROGRAMS, SO IT IS ADVISABLE TO CONTACT PROGRAM STAFF AND MONITOR THE ABOVE WEBSITES FOR PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS.

COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS AND PARKS AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENTS administer county and local capital and open space funds. These funds may be available for trail planning, design, and construction. For more information:

DELWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (DVRPC) maintains the region’s transportation improvement program (TIP) and administers several grant programs, for which trail planning, design, and construction are eligible.

CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY (CMAQ) funds transportation-related projects that help reduce emissions from mobile sources and meet the National Clean Air Act Standards. Design and construction of bicycle and pedestrian facilities are eligible. For more information: www.dvrpc.org/cmaq.

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) provides funding to undertake early stage planning, analysis, or design initiatives for projects or programs which enhance smart development or revitalization and also improve the efficiency of the regional transportation system. For more information: www.dvrpc.org/tap.

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (NJ DEP) GREEN ACRES PROGRAM provides loans and grants to municipal and county governments to acquire open space and develop outdoor recreation facilities, including trails. Green Acres also provides matching grants to nonprofit organizations to acquire land for public recreation and conservation purposes. The Green Acres Program also administers the CREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM, a source of federally-funded grants for trail development and maintenance by local governments and nonprofit organizations. For more information:

THE NATIONAL TRAIL ADVOCACY GROUPS, such as the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and People for Bikes, offer periodic grants.

DEVELOPERS of residential, commercial, and industrial buildings can construct or pay for trails. Developers should be encouraged to view trails as an amenity.

CORPORATIONS can support trail building efforts. Bristol Myers Squibb and the Educational Testing Service have played a key role in development of the Lawrence Hopewell Trail.

PROPERTY OWNERS can donate trail easements or property, or sell them at a discount to make projects feasible.

IT’S ALL ABOUT PARTNERSHIPS

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HOW DO YOU FIND THOSE PARTNERS? Since trails by their nature cross political boundaries, the first places to look are the local governments of cities, townships, boroughs, and counties through which the trail runs. These governments can incorporate trails into comprehensive plans, provide the expertise of local planning and engineering staff, and support trail projects with in-kind and cash contributions. Landowners along the trail’s route are also key players and will be important if land acquisition is required to complete your project. Businesses, community institutions, and others can be strong allies. If your trail connects to a transit station or route, coordinate with the transit agency to ensure users can move from the trail to transit seamlessly. CAST A WIDE NET, WORK TOGETHER, AND BE CREATIVE!

FUNDING SOURCES

Sources of funding for trails can include federal, state, county, and local governments; private companies and foundations; and other sources.

State and federal funding in New Jersey is typically accessible from two agencies:

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS) aims to make bicycling and walking to school safe and appealing to children of all ages. The program provides grants to local governments and school districts for construction of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, including bike lanes, multi-use trails, and traffic calming measures, within two miles of K-8 schools.

For more information: www.dvrpc.org/saferoutes.

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TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (TCDI) provides funding to undertake early stage planning, analysis, or design initiatives for projects or programs which enhance smart development or revitalization and also improve the efficiency of the regional transportation system. For more information: www.dvrpc.org/tcdi.

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THE WILLIAM PENN FOUNDATION directed $10 million to a program administered by DVRPC to fund trail design and construction projects, planning and feasibility studies, and technical assistance. The Foundation also provides direct grants to support trail planning and advocacy.

FOUNTAINS AND PRIVATE SOURCES CAN ALSO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR TRAIL PLANNING, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION.

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TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) sets aside federal transportation funds for community-based “non-traditional” projects that build infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians. Planning, design, and construction of on-road and off-road facilities including sidewalks, trails, cycle tracks, bike lanes, buffered bike lanes, and pedestrian and bicycle signals are all eligible. For more information: www.dvrpc.org/tap.

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BURLINGTON COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION www.co.burlington.nj.us/Pages/ViewDepartment.aspx?did=57

CAMDEN COUNTY OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION TRUST FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE www.camderdowncounty.com/parks/jpog-gran/open-space-farmiland-preservation

GLOUCESTER COUNTY OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION PROGRAM www.co.gloucester.nj.us/depts/landpres/ospp.asp

MERCER COUNTY OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION PROGRAM www.nj.gov/county/mercer/about/community/openpace

In-kind contributions of labor or equipment and assistance with right-of-way acquisition may also be available from county or municipal sources.

Contact county and municipal staff for more information on what is available in your area.

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DVRPC is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Greater Philadelphia Region. DVRPC fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, and related nondiscrimination statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. DVRPC’s website, www.dvrpc.org, may be translated into multiple languages. Publications and other public documents can be made available in alternative languages and formats, if requested. DVRPC public meetings are always held in ADA-accessible facilities and in transit-accessible locations when possible. Auxiliary services can be provided to individuals who submit a request at least seven days prior to a meeting. Requests made within seven days will be accommodated to the greatest extent possible. Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice by DVRPC under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint. Any such complaint may be in writing and filed with DVRPC’s Title VI Compliance Manager and/or the appropriate state or federal agency within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. For more information on DVRPC’s Title VI program, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, please call (215) 238-2871 or email public_affairs@dvrpc.org.