

APPENDIX B: FUNDING RESOURCES

OVERVIEW

When considering possible funding sources for trail projects, it is important to remember that not all construction activities or programs will be accomplished with a single funding source. It will be necessary to consider several sources of funding that together will support full project completion. Funding sources can be used for a variety of activities, including: programs, planning, design, implementation, and maintenance. This appendix outlines the most likely sources of funding from the federal, state, and local government levels as well as from the private and nonprofit sectors. Note that this reflects the funding available at the time of writing. Funding amounts, cycles, and the programs themselves may change over time.

FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCES

Federal funding is typically directed through state agencies to local governments either in the form of grants or direct appropriations. Federal funding typically requires a local match of five percent to 50 percent, but there are sometimes exceptions. The following is a list of possible Federal funding sources that could be used to support the construction of trail facilities.

FIXING AMERICA'S SURFACE TRANSPORTATION (FAST) Act

In December 2015, President Obama signed the FAST Act into law, which replaces the previous Moving Ahead for Progress in the Twenty-First Century (MAP-21). The Act provides a long-term funding source of \$305 billion for surface transportation and planning for FY 2016-2020. Overall, the FAST Act retains eligibility for big programs - Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER - now called BUILD), Surface Transportation Program (STP), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), and Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP).

In North Carolina, federal monies are administered through the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and Metropolitan/Rural Planning Organizations (MPOs/RPOs). Most, but not all, of these programs are oriented toward transportation versus recreation, with an emphasis on

reducing auto trips and providing intermodal connections. Federal funding is intended for capital improvements and safety and education programs, and projects must relate to the surface transportation system.

For more information: <https://www.transportation.gov/fastact>

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES (TA)

Transportation Alternatives (TA) is a funding source under the FAST Act that consolidates three formerly separate programs under SAFETEA-LU: Transportation Enhancements (TE), Safe Routes to School (SRTS), and the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). Funds are available through a competitive process. These funds may be used for a variety of pedestrian, bicycle, and streetscape projects. These include:

- SRTS programs - infrastructure and non-infrastructure programs.
- Construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other nonmotorized forms of transportation, including sidewalks, bikeways, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic calming techniques, and lighting and other safety-related infrastructure
- Construction, planning, and design of infra-structure-related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers, including children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities
- Construction of rail-trails
- Recreational trails program

Eligible entities for TA funding include local governments, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, natural resource or public land agencies, school districts or schools, tribal governments, and any other local or regional government entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation or recreational trails that the State determines to be eligible.

The FAST Act provides \$84 million for the Recreational Trails Program. Funding is prorated among the 50 states and

Washington D.C. in proportion to the relative amount of off-highway recreational fuel tax that its residents paid. To administer the funding, states hold a statewide competitive process. The legislation stipulates that funds must conform to the distribution formula of 30% for motorized projects, 30% for non-motorized projects, and 40% for mixed used projects. Each state governor is given the opportunity to “opt out” of the RTP.

For more information: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/transportationalternativesfs.cfm>

In January 2020, NCDOT released the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Bike/Ped Scoping Guide. This document provides detail and guidance on the Project Delivery Process and important elements to consider in bike/ped project development.

For more information: <https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/BikePed/Documents/BikePed%20Project%20Scoping%20Guidance%20for%20Local%20Governments.pdf>

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT (STBG) PROGRAM

The FAST Act converts the Surface Transportation Program into the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program. This program is among the most flexible eligibilities among all Federal-aid and highway programs. The Surface Transportation Program (STP) provides states with flexible funds which may be used for a variety of highway, road, bridge, and transit projects. A wide variety of pedestrian improvements are eligible, including trails, sidewalks, crosswalks, pedestrian signals, and other ancillary facilities. Modification of sidewalks to comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is also an eligible activity. Safe Routes to School programs, congestion pricing projects and strategies, and recreational trails projects are other eligible activities. Under the FAST Act, a State may use STBG funds to create and operate a State office to help design, implement, and oversee public-private partnerships eligible to receive Federal highway or transit funding. In general, projects cannot be located on local

roads or rural minor collectors. However, there are exceptions. These exceptions include recreational trails, pedestrian and bicycle projects, and Safe Routes to School programs.

For more information: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/stbgfs.cfm>

LOCALLY ADMINISTERED PROJECTS PROGRAM (LAPP)

The Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP) was first adopted by the NC Capital Area MPO on October 20, 2010. The program is used by the MPO to prioritize and program local transportation projects in the region that utilize federal funding and are the responsibility of the MPO (such as Surface Transportation Block Grant Program - Direct Allocation (STBGP-DA), Congestion Mitigation for Air Quality (CMAQ), etc.). LAPP is a competitive funding program managed by CAMPO that prioritizes locally administered projects in the Region. These projects are funded using the federal funding sources directly attributed to the region with a minimum 20% local match. Member jurisdictions of the CAMPO region are eligible to apply for these funds.

For more information: <https://www.campo-nc.us/funding/locally-administered-projects-program>

HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (HSIP)

HSIP provides \$2.4 billion for projects and programs that help communities achieve significant reductions in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads, bikeways, and walkways. Bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements, enforcement activities, traffic calming projects, and crossing treatments for non-motorized users in school zones are eligible for these funds.

For more information: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/hsipfs.cfm>

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS) PROGRAM

SRTS enables and encourages children to walk and bike to school. The program helps make walking and bicycling to school a safe and more appealing method of transportation

for children. SRTS 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. Most of the types of eligible SRTS projects include sidewalks or shared use paths. However, intersection improvements (i.e. signalization, marking/upgrading crosswalks, etc.), on-street bicycle facilities (bike lanes, wide paved shoulders, etc.) or off-street shared use paths are also eligible for SRTS funds.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program was established in 2005 through SAFETEA-LU as a federally funded program to provide an opportunity for communities to improve conditions for bicycling and walking to school. It is currently supported with Transportation Alternatives federal funding through the Surface Transportation Block Grant program established under the FAST Act. The SRTS Program has set aside \$1,500,000 per year of Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funds for non-infrastructure programs and activities over a three-year period. Funding requests may range from a yearly amount of \$50,000 to \$100,000 per project. Projects can be one to three years in length. Funding may be requested to support activities for community-wide, regional or statewide programs. The next funding cycle application will be available in January 2021.

For more information: <https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/BikePed/Pages/Non-Infrastructure-Alternatives-Program.aspx>

CAMPO also serves as a partner in SRTS programming.

For more information: <https://www.campo-nc.us/programs-studies/bicycle-and-pedestrian>

OTHER FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCES

BUILD TRANSPORTATION DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROGRAM

The Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program is expected to be funded at \$1 billion in FY2021. BUILD grants are awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant local or regional impact.

The FY2020 BUILD program's selection criteria gave special consideration to projects that emphasize improved access to reliable, safe, and affordable transportation for communities in rural areas. This includes projects that improve infrastructure condition, address public health and safety, promote regional connectivity, facilitate economic growth or competitiveness, deploy broadband as part of an eligible transportation project, or promote energy independence. Selection criteria encompass safety, economic competitiveness, quality of life, state of good repair, innovation and partnerships with a broad range of stakeholders.

The current application identifies any area(s) in the application narrative that may be affected by the ongoing COVID-19 situation for the Department's consideration in the project's evaluation. Trails and their benefits for healthy outdoor physical activity could be especially competitive as projects fulfilling community needs during pandemic-related restrictions.

For more information: <https://www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants>

<https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2020-02/BudgetHightlightFeb2021.pdf>

***FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION ENHANCED
MOBILITY OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH
DISABILITIES***

This program can be used for capital expenses that support transportation to meet the special needs of older adults and persons with disabilities, including providing access to an eligible public transportation facility when the transportation service provided is unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate to meeting these needs.

For more information: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/enhanced-mobility-seniors-individuals-disabilities-section-5310>

FEDERAL LANDS TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (FLTP)

The FLTP funds projects that improve transportation infrastructure owned and maintained by the following Federal Lands Management Agencies: National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and independent Federal agencies with land and natural resource management responsibilities. FLTP funds are for available for program administration, transportation planning, research, engineering, rehabilitation, construction, and restoration of Federal Lands Transportation Facilities. Transportation projects that are on the public network that provide access to, adjacent to, or through Federal lands are also eligible for funding. Under the FAST Act, \$335 - \$375 million has been allocated to the program per fiscal year from 2016 - 2020.

For more information: <https://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/fltp/documents/FAST%20FLTP%20fact%20sheet.pdf>

FEDERAL LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has historically been a primary funding source of the U.S. Department of the Interior for outdoor recreation development and land acquisition by local governments and state agencies. In North Carolina, the

program is administered by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Since 1965, the LWCF program has built a park legacy for present and future generations. 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. As of August 2020, the LWCF is now permanently funded by the federal government for \$900 million every year. This is hundreds of millions more per year than the fund typically receives.

For more information: <https://www.ncparks.gov/more-about-us/grants/lwcf-grants>

***RIVERS, TRAILS, AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM***

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) is a National Parks Service (NPS) program that provides technical assistance via direct NPS staff involvement to establish and restore greenways, rivers, trails, watersheds and open space. The RTCA program only provides planning assistance; there are no implementation funds available. Projects are prioritized for assistance based on criteria, including conserving significant community resources, fostering cooperation between agencies, serving a large number of users, encouraging public involvement in planning and implementation, and focusing on lasting accomplishments. Project applicants may be state and local agencies, tribes, nonprofit organizations, or citizen groups. National parks and other federal agencies may apply in partnership with other local organizations. This program may benefit trail development in North Carolina indirectly through technical assistance, particularly for community organizations, but is not a capital funding source.

For more information: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm>

***ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION CLEANUP
FUNDING SOURCES***

EPA's Brownfields Program provides direct funding for brownfields assessment, cleanup, revolving loans, and environmental job training. EPA's Brownfields Program collaborates with other EPA programs, other federal partners, and state agencies to identify and leverage more resources for brownfields activities. The EPA provides assessment grants to recipients to characterize, assess, and conduct community involvement related to brownfields sites. They also provide Area-wide planning grants (AWP) which provides communities with funds to research, plan, and develop implementation strategies for areas affected by one or more brownfields.

For more information: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/types-brownfields-grant-funding>

***NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION: FIVE
STAR & URBAN WATERS RESTORATION GRANT
PROGRAM***

The Five Star & Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program seeks to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations by providing modest financial assistance to diverse local partnerships for wetland, riparian, forest and coastal habitat restoration, urban wildlife conservation, stormwater management as well as outreach, education and stewardship. Projects should focus on water quality, watersheds and the habitats they support. The program focuses on five priorities: on-the-ground restoration, community partnerships, environmental outreach, education, and training, measurable results, and sustainability. Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, tribes, and educational institutions. Projects are required to meet or exceed a 1:1 match to be competitive.

For more information: <http://www.nfwf.org/fivestar/Pages/home.aspx>

***STATE AND STATE-ADMINISTERED
FUNDING SOURCES***

There are multiple sources for state funding of bicycle and pedestrian transportation projects. However, state transportation funds cannot be used to match federally funded transportation projects, according to a law passed by the North Carolina Legislature.

***NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION (NCDOT) STRATEGIC
TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENTS (STI)***

Passed in 2013, the Strategic Transportation Investments law (STI) allows NCDOT to use its funding more efficiently and effectively to enhance the state's infrastructure, while supporting economic growth, job creation and a higher quality of life. This process encourages thinking from a statewide and regional perspective while also providing flexibility to address local needs. STI also establishes a way of allocating available revenues based on data-driven scoring and local input. It is used for the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which identifies the transportation projects that will receive funding during a 10-year period. STIP is a state and federal requirement, which NCDOT updates it every two years.

STI's Quantitative Scoring Process

All independent bicycle and pedestrian projects are ranked based on a quantitative scoring process, with the following main steps:

1. Initial Project Review (NCDOT Strategic Prioritization Office (SPOT))
2. Review Projects and Data (NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division (IMD))
3. Review Data (MPOs, RPOs, Divisions)
4. Review Updates and Calculate Measures (NCDOT IMD)
5. Score Projects (NCDOT SPOT)

STI BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PROJECT SCORING

Criteria	Measure	Division Needs (50%)
Safety	(Number of crashes x 40%) + (Crash severity x 20%) + (Safety risk x 20%) + (Safety benefit x 20%)	20%
Accessibility/Connectivity	Points of Interest pts + Connections pts + Route pts	15%
Demand/Density	# of households and employees per square mile near project	10%
Cost Effectiveness	(Safety + Accessibility/Connectivity + Demand/Density) / Cost to NCDOT	5%

Bicycle and Pedestrian Project Eligibility Requirements

- Minimum total project cost = \$100,000
- Eligible costs include right-of-way, preliminary engineering, and construction
- Bicycle and pedestrian and public transportation facilities that appear in a state, regional or locally adopted transportation plan will be included as part of the proposed roadway project. NCDOT will fully fund the cost of designing, acquiring right of way, and constructing the identified facilities.

Specific Improvement Types

1. Grade-Separated Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)
2. Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)
3. On-Road; Designated Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)
4. On-Road Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)
5. Multi-Site Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)
6. Grade-Separated Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)
7. Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)
8. Multi-Site Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)
9. Improved Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)

Bundling Projects

- Allow across geographies and across varying project types
- Bundling will be limited by project management requirements rather than geographic limitations
- Any bundled project must be expected to be under one project manager/administrative unit (must be a TAP-eligible entity)
- Makes projects more attractive for LIPs and easier to manage/let

More Info on Prioritization 6.0:

NCDOT’s Prioritization Data page has training slides that explain the prioritization process:

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/planning/Prioritization%20Data/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

See the “Prioritization Training” folder and the following session information within:

- Session 3: Detailed information on overall scoring components, including local input points.
- Session 4: Features relevant project funding information, and
- Session 7: Detailed slides explaining the bicycle and pedestrian project scoring

High Impact/Low Cost Funds

Established by NCDOT in 2017 to provide funds to complete low cost projects with high impacts to the transportation system including intersection improvement projects, minor widening projects, and operational improvement projects. Funds are allocated equally to each Division.

Project Selection Criteria

Each Division is responsible for selecting their own scoring criteria for determining projects funded in this program. At a minimum, Divisions must consider all of the following in developing scoring formulas:

1. The average daily traffic volume of a roadway and whether the proposed project will generate additional traffic.
 2. Any restrictions on a roadway.
 3. Any safety issues with a roadway.
 4. The condition of the lanes, shoulders, and pavement on a roadway.
 5. The site distance and radius of any intersection on a roadway.
- \$1.5M max per project unless otherwise approved by the Secretary of Transportation
 - Projects are expected to be under contract within 12 months of funding approval by BOT

NCDOT Technical Review & Approval

- Division Engineer completes project scoring and determines eligibility.
- Division Engineer determines projects to be funded and requests approval of funding from the Chief Engineer. Division Engineer shall supply all necessary project information including funding request forms, project designs and cost estimates.
- The Project Review Committee will make a recommendation for further investigation or to include on the Board Agenda for action by the Secretary, NCDOT.

INCIDENTAL PROJECTS

Bicycle and Pedestrian accommodations such as; bike lanes, wide paved shoulders, sidewalks, intersection improvements, bicycle and pedestrian safe bridge design, etc. are frequently included as “incidental” features of larger highway/roadway projects.

In addition, bicycle safe drainage grates and handicapped accessible sidewalk ramps are now a standard feature of all NCDOT highway construction. Most pedestrian safety accommodations built by NCDOT are included as part of scheduled highway improvement projects funded with a combination of federal and state roadway construction funds.

“Incidental Projects” are often constructed as part of a larger transportation project, when they are justified by local plans that show these improvements as part of a larger, multi-modal transportation system. Having a local bicycle or pedestrian plan is important, because it allows NCDOT to identify where bike and pedestrian improvements are needed, and can be included as part of highway or street improvement projects. It also helps local government identify what their priorities are and how they might be able to pay for these projects. Under the updated NCDOT Complete Streets Policy, NCDOT pays the full cost for incidental projects if the project is proposed in a locally adopted plan (see link to updated NCDOT Complete Streets Policy below).

For more information: <https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/BikePed/Documents/Complete%20Streets%20Implementation%20Guide%20v1.31.20%20FINAL.pdf>

NC HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The purpose of the North Carolina Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) is to provide a continuous and systematic process that identifies reviews and addresses specific traffic safety concerns throughout the state. The program is structured in several distinct phases:

A system of safety warrants is developed to identify locations that are possibly deficient.

- Locations that meet warrant criteria are categorized as potentially hazardous (PH) locations.
- Detailed crash analyses are performed on the PH locations with the more severe and correctable crash patterns.
- The Regional Traffic Engineering staff performs engineering field investigations.
- The Regional Traffic Engineering staff utilizes Benefit: Cost studies and other tools to develop safety recommendations.
- Depending on the cost and nature of the counter-measures, the investigations may result in requesting Division maintenance forces to make adjustments or repairs, developing Spot Safety projects, developing Hazard Elimination projects, making adjustments to current TIP project plans or utilizing other funding sources to initiate countermeasures.
- Selected projects are evaluated to determine the effectiveness of countermeasures.

The ultimate goal of the HSIP is to reduce the number of traffic crashes, injuries and fatalities by reducing the potential for and the severity of these incidents on public roadways.

For more information: <https://connect.ncdot.gov/resources/safety/Pages/NC-Highway-Safety-program-and-Projects.aspx>

HIGHWAY HAZARD ELIMINATION PROGRAM

The Hazard Elimination Program is used to develop larger improvement projects to address safety and potential safety issues. The program is funded with 90 percent federal funds and 10 percent state funds. The cost of Hazard Elimination Program projects typically ranges between \$400,000 and \$1 million. A Safety Oversight Committee (SOC) reviews and recommends Hazard Elimination projects to the Board of Transportation (BOT) for approval and funding. These projects are prioritized for funding according to a safety benefit to cost (B/C) ratio, with the safety benefit being based on crash reduction. Once approved and funded by the BOT, these projects become part of the department's State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

For more information: <https://connect.ncdot.gov/resources/safety/Pages/NC-Highway-Safety-Program-and-Projects.aspx>

GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM

The Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) funds safety improvement projects on state highways throughout North Carolina. All funding is performance-based. Substantial progress in reducing crashes, injuries, and fatalities is required as a condition of continued funding. Permitted safety projects include checking station equipment, traffic safety equipment, and BikeSafe NC equipment. However, funding is not allowed for speed display signs. This funding source is considered to be "seed money" to get programs started. The grantee is expected to provide a portion of the project costs and is expected to continue the program after GHSP funding ends. Applications must include county level crash data. Local governments, including county governments and municipal governments, are eligible to apply.

For more information: <https://www.ncdot.gov/initiatives-policies/safety/ghsp/Pages/default.aspx>

THE NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION - RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT

Funding from the federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP), which is used for renovating or constructing trails and greenways, is allocated to states. The North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation and the State Trails Program manages these funds with a goal of helping citizens, organizations and agencies plan, develop and manage all types of trails ranging from greenways and trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding to river trails and off-highway vehicle trails. Grants are available to governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations. The maximum grant amount is \$250,000 and requires a 25% match of RTP funds received. Permissible uses include:

- New trail or greenway construction
- Trail or greenway renovation
- Approved trail or greenway facilities
- Trail head/ trail markers
- Purchase of tools to construct and/or renovate trails/greenways
- Land acquisition for trail purposes
- Planning, legal, environmental, and permitting costs - up to 10% of grant amount
- Combination of the above

For more information: <http://www.ncparks.gov/more-about-us/grants/trail-grants/recreational-trails-program>

NC PARKS AND RECREATION TRUST FUND (PARTF)

The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) provides dollar-for-dollar matching grants to local governments for parks and recreational projects to serve the general public. Counties, incorporated municipalities, and public authorities, as defined by G.S. 159-7, are eligible applicants. A local government can request a maximum of \$500,000 with each application. An applicant must match the grant dollar-for-dollar, 50 percent of the total cost of the project, and may contribute more than 50 percent. The appraised value of land to be donated to the applicant can be used as part of the match. The value of in-kind services, such as volunteer work, cannot be used as part of the match. Property acquired with PARTF funds must be dedicated for public recreational use.

For more information: <https://www.ncparks.gov/more-about-us/parks-recreation-trust-fund/parks-and-recreation-trust-fund>

CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND

The Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) is available to any state agency, local government, or non-profit organization whose primary purpose is the conservation, preservation, and restoration of North Carolina's environmental and natural resources. Grant assistance is provided to conservation projects that:

- enhance or restore degraded waters;
- protect unpolluted waters, and/or
- contribute toward a network of riparian buffers and greenways for environmental, educational, and recreational benefits;
- provide buffers around military bases to protect the military mission;
- acquire land that represents the ecological diversity of North Carolina; and
- acquire land that contributes to the development of a balanced State program of historic properties.

For more information: <http://www.cwmtf.net/#appmain.htm>

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANT

The North Carolina Division of Forest Resources Urban and Community Forestry grant can provide funding for a variety of projects that will help plan and establish street trees as well as trees for urban open space. The goal is to improve public understanding of the benefits of preserving existing tree cover in communities and assist local governments with projects which will lead to more effective and efficient management of urban and community forests.

For more information: https://www.ncforestservice.gov/Urban/urban_grant_program.htm

LOCAL FUNDING SOURCES

Local governments often plan for the funding of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure or improvements through development of Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) or occasionally, through their annual Operating Budgets. CIPs should include all types of capital improvements (water, sewer, buildings, streets, etc.) versus programs for single purposes. This allows decision-makers to balance all capital needs. Typical capital funding mechanisms include the capital reserve fund, taxes, fees, and bonds. However, many will require specific local action as a means of establishing a program if it's not already in place.

PRIVATE AND NONPROFIT FUNDING SOURCES

Many communities have solicited funding assistance from private foundations and other conservation-minded benefactors. Below are examples of private funding opportunities.

RAILS-TO-TRAILS CONSERVANCY

Under the Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund, RTC will award approximately \$85,000 per year, distributed among several qualifying projects, through a competitive process. Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations and state, regional, and local government agencies. Two types of grants are available - community support grants and project transformation grants. Around three to four community support grants are awarded each year, ranging from \$5,000-\$10,000 each. Community Support Grants support nonprofit organizations or "Friends of the Trail" groups that need funding to get trail development or trail improvement efforts off the ground. Each year, 1-2 Project Transformation Grants are awarded that range from \$15,000-\$50,000. The intention

of these grants is to enable an organization to complete a significant trail development or improvement project. For both types of grants, applications for projects on rail-trails and rails-with-trails are given preference, but rail-trail designation is not a requirement. The trail must serve multiple user types, such as bicycling, walking, and hiking, and must be considered a trail, greenway, or shared use path.

For more information: <http://www.railstotrails.org/our-work/doppelt-family-trail-development-fund/>

THE TAR RIVER LAND CONSERVANCY (TRLC)

The Tar River Land Conservancy (TRLC) preserves and protects land in the Tar River watershed to maintain clean water, preserve wildlife habitats, and promote ecologically-friendly recreational opportunities. Currently, TRLC has preserved 6,451 acres in Franklin County. TRLC may be a partner for acquiring land for greenway development within the Tar River Watershed Basin.

<http://www.tarriver.org/>

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION (NFWF)

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is a private, nonprofit, tax-exempt organization chartered by Congress in 1984. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation sustains, restores, and enhances the Nation's fish, wildlife, plants, and habitats. Through leadership conservation investments with public and private partners, the Foundation is dedicated to achieving maximum conservation impact by developing and applying best practices and innovative methods for measurable outcomes.

The Foundation provides grants through more than 70 diverse conservation grant programs. One of the most relevant programs for bicycle and pedestrian projects is Acres for America. Funding priorities include conservation of bird, fish, plants and wildlife habitats, providing access for people to enjoy outdoors, and connecting existing protected lands. Federal, state, and local government agencies, educational institutions, Native American tribes, and non-profit organizations may apply twice annually for matching grants. Due to the competitive nature of grant funding for Acres for America, all awarded grants require a minimum 1:1 match. For more information: <http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/Pages/home.aspx>

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

Land conservation is central to the mission of the Trust for Public Land (TPL). Founded in 1972,

the TPL is the only national non-profit working exclusively to protect land for human enjoyment and well-being. TPL helps acquire land and transfer it to public agencies, land trusts, or other groups that intend to conserve land for recreation and spiritual nourishment and to improve the health and quality of life of American communities. For more information: <http://www.tpl.org>

LAND FOR TOMORROW CAMPAIGN

Land for Tomorrow is a diverse partnership of businesses, conservationists, farmers, environmental groups, health professionals, and community groups committed to securing support from the public and General Assembly for protecting land, water, and historic places. Land for Tomorrow works to enable North Carolina to reach a goal of ensuring that working farms and forests, sanctuaries for wildlife, land bordering streams, parks, and greenways, land that helps strengthen communities and promotes job growth, and historic downtowns and neighborhoods will be there to enhance the quality of life for generations to come. For more information: <http://www.land4tomorrow.org/>

THE CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

The Conservation Alliance is a nonprofit organization of outdoor businesses whose collective annual membership dues support grassroots citizen-action groups and their efforts to protect wild and natural areas. Grants are typically about \$35,000 each. Funding criteria states that:

- The project should seek to secure lasting and quantifiable protection of a specific wild land or waterway. We prioritize landscape-scale projects that have a clear benefit for habitat.
- The campaign should engage grassroots citizen action in support of the conservation effort. We do not fund general education, restoration, stewardship, or scientific research projects.
- All projects must have a clear recreational benefit.

For more information: <http://www.conservationalliance.com/grants/?yearly=2020>

BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD (BCBS) OF NORTH CAROLINA FOUNDATION

BCBS does not have a traditional grant cycle and announces grant opportunities on a periodic basis. Grants can range from small-dollar equipment grants to large, multi-year partnerships.

For more information: <http://www>

bcbsncfoundation.org/grants-programs/grantmaking-overview/

DUKE ENERGY FOUNDATION

Funded by Duke Energy shareholders, this foundation makes charitable grants to nonprofit organizations and government agencies. Grant applicants must serve communities that are also served by Duke Energy. The grant program has several investment priorities that could potentially fund bicycle and pedestrian projects. The Duke Energy Foundation is committed to making strategic investments to build powerful communities where nature and wildlife thrive, students can excel and a talented workforce drives economic prosperity for all.

For more information: <https://www.duke-energy.com/community/duke-energy-foundation>

Z. SMITH REYNOLDS FOUNDATION

This Winston-Salem-based Foundation is committed to improving the quality of life for all North Carolinians. The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation is a statewide, private, family foundation that has been a catalyst for positive change in North Carolina for more than 80 years. A variety of grant programs are available.

For more information: <http://www.zsr.org/grants-programs>

BANK OF AMERICA CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

The Bank of America Charitable Foundation supports a wide range of activities, including a focus on community greening efforts that create healthy neighborhoods and environmental sustainability through the preservation, creation or restoration of open space, parks and community gardens.

For more information: <https://about.bankofamerica.com/en-us/global-impact/charitable-foundation-funding.html>

LOCAL TRAIL SPONSORS

A sponsorship program for trail amenities allows smaller donations to be received from both individuals and businesses. Cash donations could be placed into a trust fund to be accessed for certain construction or acquisition projects associated with the greenways and open space system. Some recognition of the donors is appropriate and can be accomplished through the placement of a plaque, the naming of a trail

segment, and/or special recognition at an opening ceremony. Types of gifts other than cash could include donations of services, equipment, labor, or reduced costs for supplies.

CORPORATE DONATIONS

Corporate donations are often received in the form of liquid investments (i.e. cash, stock, bonds) and in the form of land. Local governments typically create funds to facilitate and simplify a transaction from a corporation's donation to the given locality. Donations are mainly received when a widely supported capital improvement program is implemented.

PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

Private individual donations can come in the form of liquid investments (i.e. cash, stock, bonds) or land. Local governments typically create funds to facilitate and simplify a transaction from an individual's donation to the given locality. Donations are mainly received when a widely supported capital improvement program is implemented.

FUNDRAISING/CAMPAIGN DRIVES

Organizations and individuals can participate in a fundraiser or a campaign drive. It is essential to market the purpose of a fundraiser to rally support and financial backing. Often times fundraising satisfies the need for public awareness, public education, and financial support.

VOLUNTEER WORK

It is expected that many citizens will be excited about the development of a greenway corridor. Individual volunteers from the community can be brought together with groups of volunteers form church groups, civic groups, scout troops and environmental groups to work on greenway development on special community workdays. Volunteers can also be used for fundraising, maintenance, and programming needs. This Winston-Salem-based Foundation is committed to improving the quality of life for all North Carolinians. The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation is a statewide, private, family foundation that has been a catalyst for positive change in North Carolina for more than 80 years. A variety of grant programs are available.

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