



# NEW HAMPSHIRE RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP)



A Federally Funded Community Assistance Grant Program

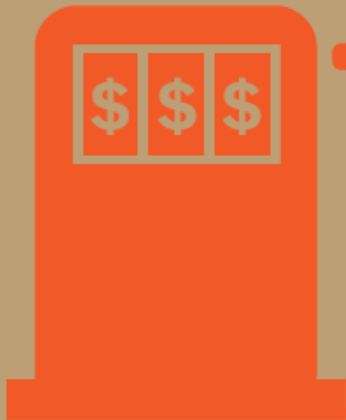
# What is the RTP?

- ▣ Federal assistance program funded from federal gas taxes paid on fuel for off highway use  
(Title 23 U.S.C. Chapter 2, § 206)
- ▣ Authorized by the Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs act of November 2021
  - 5 year bill: RTP has funds until 2026
  - Administered *nationally* by the **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)**
- ▣ Administered *locally* by the **NH Trails Bureau (BOT)**
  - In NH: a highly *competitive* grant program which seeks quality public trail projects



# The Recreational Trails Program

Improving America's Trails Since 1991



## \$270+M

Paid in federal taxes by non-highway recreational users per year.



Off-highway recreational activities are taxed at 18.4 cents per gallon.



## \$84M

Shared with other users.

### Recreational Trails Program

- ◆ Over 25,000 projects funded.
- ◆ Benefitting tens of millions of diverse trail users.
- ◆ Administered by states (20% match required from states).
- ◆ Funded at less than 1/3 of the revenues generated.
- ◆ Applies user pay-user benefit principle of Highway Trust Fund to recreational trails.

HIGHWAY  
TRUST FUND

## 1 - Tax Dollars to Trails

Non-highway vehicle recreation is estimated to generate **\$300 million** in fuel taxes annually. The RTP is funded at **\$85 million** annually. This money is distributed to states, which select which projects to fund.

## 2 - Matching Dollars

RTP projects require matching funds. These dollars come from various sources, including donations, volunteer labor, and use of conservation corps. Details on projects are in the RTP database at <http://recreationaltrailsinfo.org>.

## 3 - Trailheads & Bridges

RTP bridge and trailhead projects have helped make thousands of miles of trails safe and accessible. Some of the projects even provide access to **water trails**. RTP is key to funding trail projects in many **state and federal parks and forests**.

## 4 - Local Economies

Recreational trails are key to America's outdoor economy. The federal Bureau of Economic Analysis estimates that outdoor recreation contributes **\$778 billion** annually and supports **5.2 million jobs**.

## 5 - Access to Healthy Outdoor Fun

RTP aids the nation in many ways, including better **physical and mental health**. It helps those with mobility challenges, and millions of Americans with different trail use interests, access our public lands and waters.

# Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

Every year, tens of millions of Americans pay federal gas taxes to fuel non-highway recreation equipment like motorcycles, snowmobiles and ATVs. Created by Congress in 1991, the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) puts these tax dollars towards trailhead facilities, trail construction and maintenance, environmental education materials, and more. RTP unites and benefits various trail users, including equestrians, hikers, bicyclists, cross-country skiers, joggers – even water trail enthusiasts in kayaks and canoes.



For additional information on the RTP, contact the **Coalition for Recreational Trails** at [www.rectrails.org](http://www.rectrails.org)

# Who can apply (sponsor a project) for RTP funds?

- ▣ Private organizations\*
- ▣ Non-profit organizations\*
- ▣ Educational Institution\*
- ▣ Municipalities
- ▣ State agencies
- ▣ Federal agencies

\*must be registered with NH Secretary of State's Office

Approved grants will be posted on Bureau of Trails website per Federal public funds requirements for solicitation



# Eligible Projects: FHWA Categories

- ▣ A: Maintenance and restoration of existing trails
- ▣ B: Development & rehabilitation of trailside/trailhead facilities/linkages
- ▣ C: Purchase and lease of trail maintenance equipment
- ▣ D: Construction of new trails
- ▣ G: Educational projects for safety and/or environmental protection



# Ineligible Projects



- ▣ *Project Planning\**
- ▣ Feasibility studies
- ▣ Project Administration
- ▣ Construction of paths or sidewalks along or adjacent to public roads
- ▣ Small power/hand tools: chainsaws, drills, hammers, etc.
- ▣ Projects that are in progress when the grant is awarded
- ▣ Projects completed prior to the grant being awarded
- ▣ For profit trail systems that charge a user fee
- ▣ Paving of trails

**\*in order to be reimbursed: must be done after FHWA approval  
Only 10% allowed of total project amount**

# Identifying Trail Users

- ▣ You must identify the permitted and primary users of the trail for both summer and winter
- ▣ Proposals will be placed into either the *Motorized*, *Non-Motorized* or *Diversified* user category (as determined by the Trails Bureau and/or the grant selection committee).
- ▣ Applications will be scored against other applications within each user category.



# Motorized Trail Projects



Trails for primary use of:

- ❑ Snowmobiles
- ❑ Trail bikes
- ❑ All terrain vehicles
- ❑ Utility terrain vehicles
- ❑ Off Highway Recreational Vehicles

# Non-Motorized Projects

Includes trails for, but not limited to:

- ▣ Hikers
- ▣ Joggers/runners
- ▣ X-country skiers
- ▣ Cyclists
- ▣ Equestrians
- ▣ Mushers
- ▣ Skijorners



# Diversified Trail Projects

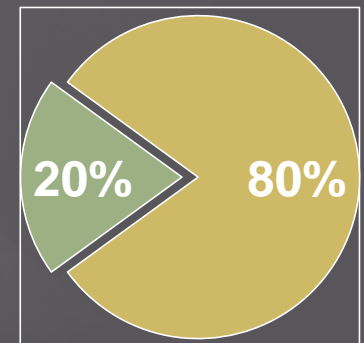
- ▣ For trails that are open to both motorized and non-motorized uses



# Funding Projects

- ▣ RTP grants are available for amounts between \$8,000 & \$80,000
  - ▣ Minimum Total Project Cost: \$10,000
- ▣ RTP Grants for Education projects between \$3,000-\$10,000
  - ▣ Minimum Total Project Cost for Education: \$3,750
- ▣ Maximum of 2 applications/organization/grant year
- ▣ Total RTP funding not to exceed \$80,000 per applicant
- ▣ Maximum RTP share for any project is 80% or \$80,000 (whichever comes first) of the Total Project Cost
- ▣ Minimum of 20% must be pledged as Match
  - ▣ 20% Match is of Total Project Cost Value (Not 20% of granted amount)

TOTAL PROJECT



■ RTP (80% or \$80,000, whichever comes first)

# Procurement Requirements

- ▣ All projects incorporating steel and/or iron must be “**Buy America**” compliant (23 U.S.C. § 313)
  - ▣ This means: documenting where the steel/iron is *manufactured* usually by obtaining Mill Certificates
  - ▣ *Recycled* steel/iron is ok to be foreign but must document where it comes from and cannot be melted down (unless documented in United States)
  - ▣ This includes any *donated* steel for match
- ▣ When Buying Equipment:
  - ▣ Decals from BOT will be displayed on equipment and will be provided during equipment audit
  - ▣ Waivers can be applied for but final assembly must be in United States and documented



**NOTE: as of May 2017: all waivers are on hold indefinitely**

# Procurement Requirements con't

- ▣ On November 15, 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was signed into law (the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, or BIL), which includes the **Build America, Buy America Act (BABA)**. Pub. L. No. 117-58.
- ▣ **Iron and Steel:** All iron and steel permanently incorporated into the project must be produced in the United States.
- ▣ **Manufactured Products:** All manufactured products permanently incorporated into the project must be produced in the United States.
- ▣ **All construction materials permanently incorporated into the project must be manufactured in the United States.**
  - ▣ Construction Materials include an article, material, or supply that is or consists primarily of: Non-ferrous metals; Plastic and polymer-based products (including polyvinylchloride, composite build materials, and polymers used in fiber optic cables); Glass (including optic glass); Lumber; or Drywall.
  - ▣ A Certificate of Compliance, conforming to the requirements of Section 106.04, shall be furnished for all above materials, regardless of item category.



# Procurement Requirements con't

- On August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 the US Department of Transportation found, based on public comment, that it was in the public interest to issue a waiver of BABA's domestic preferences for iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials under a single financial assistance award for which:
  - The total value of the non-compliant products is no more than the lesser of \$1,000,000 or 5% of total applicable costs for the project; or
  - The total amount of Federal financial assistance applied to the project, through awards or subawards, is below \$500,000.





# Environmental Reviews



- ❑ To comply with NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) (42 U.S.C. § 4321, Chapter 55)
- ❑ Applications require a **Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB)** review of rare plants & animals
  - ❑ If NHB has a “hit”, there is a \$25 fee that is not eligible for RTP reimbursement
  - ❑ If there is a “hit”: sponsor is responsible for providing documentation showing consultation from:
    - ❑ NH Fish & Game for guidance on **animals**
    - ❑ Natural Heritage Bureau for guidance on **plants**
- ❑ All project sponsors should be familiar with the 2017 **“Best Management Practices for Erosion Control During Trail Maintenance & Construction”** manual (BMP Manual is on Bureau of Trails website)



# Environmental Reviews

- It is the sponsor's responsibility to obtain any necessary notifications or permits from the **Department of Environmental Services (DES):**  
Wetlands Bureau
- December 15, 2019: new wetland rules posted
  - FYI: DES will not accept requests for notifications or permits without a **Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB)** review attached



# Historic Reviews

- ▣ To comply with NHPA (National Historic Preservation Act)(16 U.S.C. § 470f), Granted Projects will be reviewed for adverse effects to historic properties by the NH Division of Historical Resources (DHR) through EMMIT



# How to Apply

- ▣ Located on our website:  
[www.nhstateparks.org](http://www.nhstateparks.org)
- ▣ Application forms are on the NH State Parks Website, under Trails Bureau, under Grants: Recreational Trails Program
- ▣ Applications should be typed/printed
  - Do not use covers/binders or staple
  - Submit copies of completed application
    - ▣ 1 Original paper copy + **electronic copy**
  - Missing information and/or attachments *will* result in point loss or rejection



# Examples of Rail Trail Projects Funded by RTP:

## FY2022 Cotton Valley Rail Trail



# FY2023 Northern Rail Trail



# FY2024 Selected Rail Trail Projects

## FNRT Boscawen Extension Phase 2 - FY24 RTP

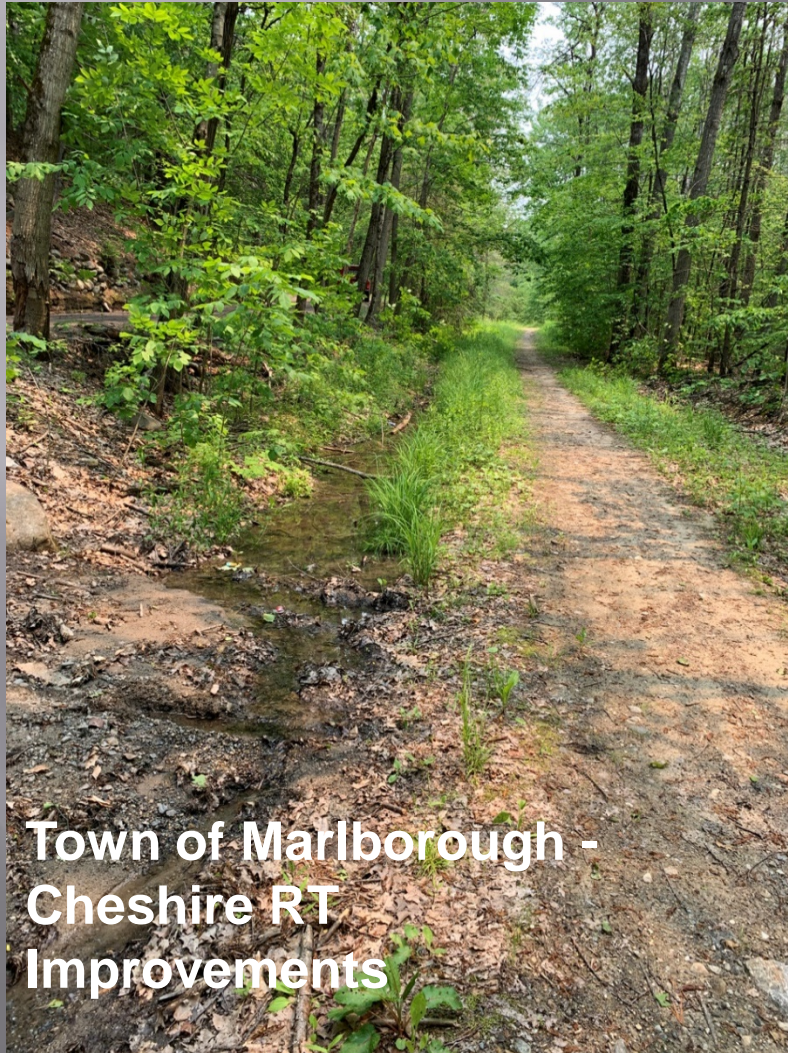


Parking Lot View from Overpass

## xNHAT – Presidential RT Restoration



# FY2024 Selected Rail Trail Projects Con't



**Town of Marlborough -  
Cheshire RT  
Improvements**



**Cheshire County –  
Cheshire RT  
Improvements  
(Westmoreland)**

# THANK YOU!!!



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