

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRAILS

2011 MASSACHUSETTS STATE TRAIL CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 12, 2011

DOYLE CENTER – LEOMINSTER, MA

NOTE: THE BUCKET OF CASH AT THE FRONT OF THE ROOM IS AVAILABLE FOR ALL CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS. PLEASE HAVE YOUR MONEY SACHELS OPEN SO WE CAN SHOVEL THE LARGE DENOMINATION BILLS IN BEFORE WE GET GOING WITH OUR DISCUSSION. IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR CASH IN COINS, PLEASE SEE ME AFTER THE PRESENTATION. THANK YOU!

Introduction: This workshop is meant to be a *participatory discussion* on the current funding sources and future funding opportunities. With the funding of next year's RTP program still in doubt, we may be moving into a time of sharply reduced or eliminated federal funds. With this prospect looming in our near future, can we learn from each other about alternative funding strategies that have worked to fund local, regional and statewide trail projects? Are there lessons to be learned from the various user groups as to how they have secured funding for their projects. Do we to act as a community of trail users and advocate for consistent funding for trails in the state budget, in our individual communities' budgets, with private industries like the health and insurance industries, with large private companies like EMS, REI, Quaboag Rubber, Home Depot, Lowes, etc? Are there other funding ideas that could help, eg a state license plate? what about a state lottery ticket with % of proceeds going to the cause or part of the gaming revenue from casinos and slots? .

The goal of this workshop is to share our funding successes with each other and to create a list of prioritized funding approaches that require further discussion and research. The ideas and comments generated in this discussion will be the basis for planning a more focused workshop on future funding strategies and options and actions the trail community needs to undertake to make these opportunities a reality.

Structure for this discussion:

20 – 25 minutes - Group sharing of "tried and true" funding strategies for trail projects. We are trying to uncover as many successful approaches so please avoid repetition.

20 - 25 minutes – Group brainstorming of potential new/alternative funding strategies and approaches.

20 minutes – Group discussion on future action steps to fund the implementation of a statewide trail network.

Tried and True Funding approaches:

RTP Grant

Individual/Corporate Donor solicitation

CPA Funds

Fundraising Event (Dinner, Auction, Raffle, etc.)

Town Warrant Article/City Council Petition

Membership fees

Congressional "earmark"

CDBG funds