

Project Prioritization Cover Sheet

Transportation Improvement Program



CONTACT	Contact Information	
	Agency/Organization	<u>Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor</u>
	Contact Person	<u>Megan DiPrete</u> Title <u>Deputy Executive Director</u>
	Mailing Address <u>One Depot Square</u>	
	City	<u>Woonsocket, RI</u> Zip Code <u>02895</u>
	Phone	<u>401-765-2211</u> Email <u>mdiprete@blackstoneheritagecorridor.org</u>

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION	Project Prioritization <i>please use an additional sheet if necessary</i>			
	Priority	Listed in TIP 2013-2016		Project Name
		Yes	No	
	1	X		Originally identified as Blackstone River Bikeway. Was \$250k plus \$290k added (total \$540k) from JHCBRVNHC-related Visitor Services per DOT (12/24/2014). Includes \$100k for Kelly House Replica Barn (in process), and includes Blackstone River Bikeway wayfinding projects (\$440k), also in process. (See notes below regarding the funding)
	3	X		Originally identified as BHCBRVNHC-related Visitor Services (\$690k) See email from DOT dated 12/24/2014 confirming reallocation of funds. Includes River Access at Cold Spring Park (\$400k), to be coordinated in concert with other DOT-led projects, notably design and construction of this portion of the Blackstone River Bikeway (Segment 8 - C) Per DOT (12/24/14) the \$290k balance transferred to the Blackstone River Bikeway Enhancements project (see note in priority #1 above).

CERTIFICATION	Applicant Certification	
	The information provided on this application is in accordance with local regulations and ordinances.	
	Megan T. DiPrete	Deputy Executive Director
	Applicant	Title
<u>Megan T. DiPrete</u>	<u>Jan 7, 2016</u>	
Signature	Date	

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PROJECT PRIORITIZATION	Project Prioritization <i>please use an additional sheet if necessary</i>			
	Priority	Listed in TIP 2013-2016		Project Name
		Yes	No	
	2	X		Blackstone River Bikeway
				Notably segments 1A (which is fully designed, scheduled for advertisement
				but recently halted), Segments 8 A and 8C which are 90% designed and
				awaiting final permits from Army Corps but otherwise fully designed,
				Segment 8B which is post 30% designed and will involve little if any
				permitting and ROW. Additionally Segment 3 (A and B, or alternatively
				A, B and C) is in various stages of readiness.
				This legacy project is nearly 3/4 complete in Rhode Island. Ultimately it
				will form a 48 mile path following the Blackstone River between Providence
			and Worcester.	

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	Applicant	Title
<u>Megan T. DiPrete</u>	<u>Jan 7, 2016</u>	
Signature	Date	

Submittal Checklist

- 3 collated copies of complete TIP submittal package
 - Project Prioritization Cover Sheet
 - New Project Application Form for each new project
 - 2-page narrative on evaluation criteria
 - 8.5" x 11" PDF map of project location

Email a copy of complete TIP submittal package to Kimberly.Crabill@doa.ri.gov or provide on a CD

Submit complete TIP submittal package to:

Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program
ATTN: Kimberly Crabill
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908

ALL APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 3:00PM ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2016



Blackstone Heritage Corridor, Inc.

One Depot Square, Woonsocket RI 02895
401-765-2211 • BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org

The Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission applied for and was awarded two grants through the RI DOT "Enhancement Program." Consistent with Congressional action (*ref. U.S. Public Law 99-647 as most recently amended by U.S. Public Law 113-291*) the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, Inc. (Blackstone Heritage Corridor) operates on behalf of the Commission.

The previously awarded funding included \$690,000 available in FY14 for "Visitor Services Enhancements." Other funding in the amount of \$250,000 was designated for the Blackstone River Bikeway.

Working with DOT staff, the JHC BRV National Heritage Corridor acknowledged that some of the projects were unlikely to move forward as originally envisioned and that the projects should be adjusted so as to be reasonably achievable. At DOT's request, the Board of Directors adopted a resolution in September 2014 proposing a redistribution of the funding.

By agreement with DOT, (*ref. email from Tom Queenan dated 12/24/2014*), the funding for the JHCBRVNH projects was redistributed as follows:

- Reallocate \$400,000 from the Visitor Services Enhancements fund to the Blackstone River Access project to fund boat ramp and access improvements at Cold Spring Park in Woonsocket. Since the Woonsocket Depot is no longer used as a waiting area for the bus and is no longer a designated RIPTA stop, the work that was originally envisioned by this funding is no longer representative of the Enhancement program, DOT asked us to consider this reallocation. River access at this location in Cold Spring Park will coordinate with the Blackstone River Bikeway, which is in the 90% design phase in this section, resulting in a multi-modal transportation resources. Additionally, the river access will support educational river tours and exploration, as well as tourism-based economic development. The requested and authorized reallocation of funding remains consistent with the original purposes of the funding and we understand this to be reasonably achievable.
- Reallocate the remaining \$290,000 from the Visitor Enhancements fund to the Blackstone River Bikeway fund. Of this, we proposed and DOT approved a distribution as follows:
 - \$100,000 for construction of a replica barn at the Kelly House and Transportation Museum in the Blackstone River State Park, and
 - \$190,000 to be added to the existing \$250,000 to fund enhancements along the Blackstone River Bikeway.

Following DOT's approval of the redistribution of funding one year ago, we have made significant progress and both projects are in process. Based on DOT's approval in late December 2014, we have advanced the Kelly House Replica Barn Project as follows:

- Worked with representatives of RI DOT and RI DEM to identify appropriate process requirements;
- Secured a license with the RI State Properties Committee (February 2015);
- Developed and secured a contract relative to funding the design of the project, with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and the Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone (June 2015);
- Developed a Request for Proposals for architectural and construction management services, which was reviewed by representatives of RI DEM, RI DOT, Blackstone Valley Historical Society, and Blackstone River Watershed Council / Friends of the Blackstone. DOT provided review comments on the RFP in October;
- Issued the RFP, reviewed submittals with RI DEM and others and awarded the contract for architectural services;
- Initiated Phase I services, which are currently in process; and
- Anticipate project completion in summer 2016.

Additionally, the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park was established by Congress. Federal legislation specifically states that the boundary of the new Park includes the Blackstone River, the canal, towpath, and the Blackstone River State Park. The Kelly House and replica barn will aid the National Park Service in delivering important programming in the new Park and affords the opportunity to welcome groups to this nationally significant resource.

We have proceeded in good faith based on your December 2014 email and consider the Kelly House replica barn project well underway.

The Blackstone River Bikeway Enhancements project is also underway. Our Board of Directors has adopted a budget for the fiscal year which began October 1 and includes funding and program support for the wayfinding project envisioned for the Bikeway funding. A contract is under development which assures multi-party participation and adequate funding, and that contract is expected to be executed within days. Additionally and RFP has been developed to solicit services for that project. In terms of coordination, this organization has met repeatedly with DOT's designated representative in order to assure a coordinated and efficient project approach.

Indeed, based on DOT's approval December 24, 2014, the Blackstone Heritage Corridor on behalf of the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission has acted in good faith to carry out those approved projects both expeditiously and efficiently.

Queenan, Thomas (DOT) <thomas.queenan@dot.ri.gov>

12/24/
14

to William, Stephen, Lambri, me, Julie, Sharon

Hi Mike,

This email will serve as a follow-up to the Heritage Corridor's recent letter seeking changes in funding for projects to better reflect the overall needs of the Corridor in light of recent good news from Washington establishing the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park.

Essentially, we have collectively agreed to reallocate \$690,000 in Transportation Enhancement/Alternative funding from the Woonsocket Depot as follows:

\$400,000 toward a ramp and access improvements at Cold Spring Park;
\$290,000 toward Blackstone River Bikeway Improvements; and,
\$100,000 toward construction of a replica barn at the Kelly House property.

The additional funding at Cold Spring Park will allow us to move forward with a ramp and dock for use on tourist and excursion activities.

It is our understanding the Bikeway Improvements may involve signage and related amenities and that additional local funds may also be available for such project elements. We will need to discuss these matters with your office and Mr. Zerva so these efforts are properly coordinated with on-going Bikeway efforts. Please contact me after the New Year to arrange a meeting on these matters.

Regarding the replica barn, we would also like to have a separate meeting on this effort.

Please also note, there have been sweeping changes with sub-recipient requirements with the adoption of the new "Super-Circular" effective 12/26/14. We're going to need to communicate early and often as we work through these new requirements.

I will be back in the office on January 5th, please call (222-4203 x4239) or email me so we can get started.

Best Wishes – Happy New Year

Tom Queenan



BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY

National Heritage Corridor

To: Rhode Island Secretary of State

CERTIFIED CORPORATE VOTE

The undersigned Secretary of the BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HERITIGAGE CORRIDOR Inc., a non-profit corporation, established pursuant to the laws of the State of Massachusetts (the Blackstone Corridor Inc.), hereby certifies that at a meeting of the Blackstone Corridor Inc. duly called and held on the 26th day of September, 2014 at which meeting a quorum was duly present and acting throughout, the following vote was duly adopted:

1. Ms. Jeannie Hebert moved for the authorization to changes the Registered Agent for the Blackstone Corridor, Inc. to Charlene Perkins Cutler; motion was seconded by Mr. John Gregory and, on vote, unanimously approved.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I acknowledge this resolution to be a correct copy of that vote.



Todd K. Helwig, Secretary



BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY

National Heritage Corridor

Resolution of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, Inc.

Whereas, the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission (Commission) applied for and was awarded two grants through the RI Department of Transportation 'Enhancement Grant' program, and

Whereas, the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, Inc. (Blackstone Heritage Corridor) now operates on behalf of the Commission, and

Whereas, the funding for both of these projects was scheduled to become available in this most recent fiscal year (FY14); one in the amount of \$690,000, for 'Visitor Services Enhancements' at the Woonsocket Depot, and the other, in the amount of \$250,000, for the 'Blackstone River Bikeway', and

Whereas, the Blackstone Heritage Corridor wishes to modify the proposed use of these Enhancements funds to better suit the current needs of the Corridor, and

Whereas, at the Board of Directors meeting held on September 26, 2014, a resolution to reallocate the Enhancement Grant funds was presented,

Now, Therefore be it resolved, that the Blackstone Heritage Corridor requests that the Rhode Island Department of Transportation to make changes to the Blackstone Heritage Corridor's Enhancement Grants as follows:

- Close out the 'Visitor Service Enhancements' grant.
- Reallocate \$400,000 from the Visitor Services grant to the Blackstone River Access project to fund a new boat ramp and access improvements at Cold Spring Park in Woonsocket.
- Reallocate \$290,000 from the Visitor Services grant to the 'Blackstone River Bikeway' enhancement grant.
- Allocate \$100,000 of the 'Blackstone River Bikeway' funds for a new project at the state Blackstone River Park, for the construction of a replica barn at the Kelly House property.

This Resolution shall take effect upon passage. .

Submitted By: Donna M. Sullivan



BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY

National Heritage Corridor

MEMO

To: Board of Directors
From: Michael Cassidy, Interim Acting Coordinator
Date: August 29, 2014
Subject: Transportation Enhancement Grants

Several years ago, the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission (Commission) applied for and was awarded two grants through the RI Department of Transportation 'Enhancement Grants' program. These were reflected in the State's Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for the Fiscal Years 2012-2016. One was in the amount of \$690,000, and was for 'Visitor Services Enhancements' at the Woonsocket Depot. The other, in the amount of \$250,000, was for the "Blackstone River Bikeway."

The Visitor Services grant dates back to 2005, when the Depot building was being used as a waiting area for the RIPTA bus stop on Main Street. The project included landscaping and parking lot improvements, construction of a garage on site, and exhibits in the welcome area.

The Blackstone River Bikeway funding was awarded in 2007 and was to provide 'enhancements' along the bikeway, including signage, traveler services, etc.

The funding for both of these projects was scheduled to become available in this most recent fiscal year (FY14). Since the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, Inc. (Blackstone Heritage Corridor) now is operating on behalf of the Commission, RIDOT contacted me to provide guidance for revisiting the anticipated programs, and how to utilize this funding opportunity.

RIDOT has also been implementing another Enhancement Grant project, the 'Blackstone River Access' program, to construct river access points along the Blackstone. One example was recently completed in the Albion section of Lincoln. Through this program, RIDOT has also been working with a variety of stakeholders in Woonsocket to develop a river access project

adjacent to Market Square. This project involved development of a "loading dock" where people could board The Explorer (the Tourism Council's riverboat) and enjoy a ride upriver into Blackstone MA. The boat was anticipated to be loaded into the river using the existing boat ramp at Cold Spring Park. However, the dock near Market Square has significant budget challenges as well as several potentially-costly unknowns related to the structural stability of the river all, potential environmental/soil contamination issues, and proximity to the Thundermist Dam. Consequently, the ability to develop the Woonsocket Market Square river (boat) access program is tenuous at best. Since the Depot is no longer used as a waiting area for the bus stop, the work we had anticipated to perform on the property is no longer eligible for funding under the Enhancement Grant criteria, RIDOT has asked us to consider reallocating some of the Visitor Services grant funds to the 'Blackstone River Access' fund.

By shifting the focus to Cold Spring Park, grant funds could focus on improving existing boat ramp provisions so as to support guests boarding the Explorer at this location. Such improvements would also benefit canoe and kayak users, who would enjoy a better planned and more ruggedly-constructed river access point. Additionally, since the Blackstone River Bikeway connects Cold Spring Park and Market Square, we hope that there would still be economic benefit to the Woonsocket downtown. Construction of the boat ramp/improvements (at Cold Spring Park) could be designed in coordination with the Bikeway design effort, and construction of the boat ramp/improvements could be done coincidentally with the Bikeway construction. Finally, shifting the focus to making improvements at Cold Spring Park would not preclude future river boat access at Market Square, if and when funding and Army Corps permitting are in place.

After working with all the partners involved, I recommend that we request DOT to reallocate \$400,000 from the Visitor Services grant to the Blackstone River Access project to fund boat ramp and access improvements at Cold Spring Park.

This would leave a balance of \$290,000 in "our" Visitor Services enhancement grant.

In other news, we have been working on a project with RIDEM, the Blackstone Historical Society and the Blackstone River Watershed Council to construct a 'replica' barn in the Blackstone River State Park. The barn would be constructed on the same foundation as the structure that was historically there, near the Kelly House Museum. The cost for completion of this project, including design, permitting and construction, is estimated to be \$ 100-150,000.

In order to support this project, we proposed moving the \$290,000 balance of the Visitor Services grant, to the 'Blackstone Bikeway' grant fund. Of this, we suggest allocating \$100,000 for the Kelly House Barn project, and adding the \$190,000 balance to the existing \$250,000 fund for Bikeway 'enhancements'.

As part of the Bikeway enhancement project, we propose working with RIDEM and the BRWC/FOB to execute a wayfinding project in FY 2016. This project would include development of signage to support visitor services, such as access to rest rooms or ice cream or

nearby villages, using techniques that comply with state and federal standards, and which are consistent with the Corridor's Sign Plan. In addition to "typical" signage, the program is expected to include provisions for smart-phone applications and other "cutting edge" approaches to provide visitor services, promote the heritage landscape, and support local economic initiatives.

In order to formally submit these proposed changes to RIDEM, I will seek a formal resolution from the Board at the next full Board meeting, which is scheduled for September 26, 2014.