



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
*Office of the*  
SECRETARY of TRANSPORTATION

**Multi-Use Trails Funding  
State Trails Office**

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# Transportation Initiatives - Investment in Trails

- **General Fund dollars were provided in the State Budgets approved by the General Assembly in June 2022 for the planning, development, and construction of multi-use trails throughout the Commonwealth**
- **Budget language charges the CTB to prioritize the funds for:**
  - **New regional trails**
  - **Projects to improve connectivity of existing trail networks**
  - **Provide geographic diversity in the use of such funds**
- **Also, directs the establishment of a State Trails Office**
  - **Develop a State Trails Plan and State Trails Information Clearinghouse consistent with the January 2022 "Report of Virginia Multi-Use Trails Initiative"**
  - **State Trails Office shall coordinate with the State Trails Advisory Committee and the Department of Conservation and Recreation**

# Transportation Initiatives - Investment in Trails

<i>(in millions)</i>	Previously Provided (2021 Transportation Initiative)	FY 2022 (Chapter 1)	FY 2023 (Chapter 2)	FY 2024 Chapter 2)	Total
General Fund	\$10.0	\$37.5	\$41.5	\$ -	\$89.0
Transportation Alternatives Program (Federal)			7.0	7.0	\$14.0
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>\$103.0</b>

# State Trails Office

- **Following the direction provided by the legislature and the January 2022 report, the following steps will be taken to stand up the State Trails Office.**
  - **The Office will be a matrixed organization within VDOT**
  - **TMPD will serve as the Office lead**
  - **Two positions will be filled initially**
    - Transportation and Mobility Planning Division (TMPD)
    - Local Assistance Division (LAD).
  - **Third position will be held until the need is determined**
- **Per the Budget, \$800,000 in FY 2023 funding will be used to:**
  - **Fund positions and to secure consultant services**
    - Perform analysis
    - Conduct outreach
    - Develop the State Trails Plan and the State Trails Information Clearinghouse

# High Priority Trails

## General Assembly Priorities

- The Budget did not prescribe funding amounts to specific trails
- In providing the funding, General Assembly considered the needs of five specific trails

Project	Explanation
Shenandoah Valley Project	Rural, long-distance; To be used only to purchase the Right of Way until final decision is made regarding the Rail Line; Rockingham, through Shenandoah and the central part of Warren Counties
Craig Valley Trail	Rural, medium distance; Right of Way, Engineering, and Construction; Botetourt and Craig counties
Peaks to Creeks	Urban trail connectivity; City of Lynchburg
Tobacco Heritage Trail	Rural trail network connectivity; Mecklenburg County
Eastern Shore	Rural, long-distance; Full engineering study of the project; Northampton and Accomack Counties

- Flexibility was retained given the status of the trails and to provide ability to address cost increases due to inflation and supply chain issues

# Funding Recommendations

- **TAP Funding**
  - **FY's 2023-2024 TAP selections funded \$11.8 million of trail projects**
  - **The remaining \$2.2 million will be held for future allocation**
- **Establish the Trails Office and develop the State Trails Plan and the State Trails Information Clearinghouse using the \$800K provided**
- **Recommend the CTB utilize the provided GF funds to support the five trails previously noted as GA priorities**
  - **Provide up to \$1M as needed to each trail to support project evaluation and scoping, RW negotiations and construction planning**
  - **Prior to expending additional funds on these projects or the initiation of RW or CN activities, the scope of work and cost estimate for each trail will be presented to the CTB with a request for a budget allocation**

# Next Steps

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- **Advance the General Assembly identified Priority Trails**
  - **CTB action to provide up to \$1M to each Priority Trail**
- **Fill positions and establish the State Trails Office**
- **Begin coordination with State Trails Advisory Committee and Department of Conservation and Recreation**
- **Begin development of a State Trails Plan and State Trails Information Clearinghouse consistent with the January 2022 "Report of Virginia Multi-Use Trails Initiative"**