Tonight’s Program

• RTP Grant Overview
• Prior Public Engagement
• VMI’s PDESA Application
• Q&A
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VA Recreational Trails Program

• Matching reimbursement grant program for the creation and maintenance of trails and trail facilities
• Funded by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
• Administered by Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) in Virginia
• Two-part proposal:
  – Proposal description and environmental screening application (PDESA) - now
VA Recreational Trails Program

• Proposed projects must be reviewed by federal and state agencies for compliance with environmental laws and regulations:
  – US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
  – Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
  – Department of Historic Resources (DHR)
  – Division of Natural Heritage (DNH)
  – Department of Game & Inland Fisheries (VDGIF)
  – Marine Resources Commission (VMRC)
VA Recreational Trails Program

• The self-performed environmental screening is used by to determine which level of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis is needed, if any:
  – Categorical Exclusion
  – Environmental Assessment
  – Environmental Impact Statement
VA Recreational Trails Program

- Public comment period is required
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Prior Public Engagement

- Eight meetings in 2009 of various group sizes
- Public meeting on 29 August 2009
- Advisory Committee established 2013, representing
  - Cities
  - County
  - Landowners
  - RACC
- Public meeting on 12 November 2013
- Public web site www.vmi.edu/chessie
  - documents from the Advisory Committee
  - open comment field
- *The News-Gazette* article 9 July 2014
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VMI’s Application

• Application form
• Attachments
  – Evidence of Public Comment
  – Project Location & Details
  – Prior Environmental Review
  – Coordination with Natural Resource Agencies
  – Explanations of Environmental Impacts
  – Project Timeline
  – Resolution
  – Budget
Public Comment

• Newspaper legal ads
• Application with attachments posted on the web site www.vmi.edu/chessieRTP
• Hard copy available to the public at the VMI Preston Library
• A public meeting 9 September 2014
Public Comment

Deadline for comments:
10 October 2014

MAJ Jennifer deHart
110 Hines Lane, Lexington VA 24450
540-464-7658
dehartje@vmi.edu
Project Location
Project Location
Project Location
Project Location
Project Location

[Image of project location]
Project Location
Project Location
Project Location
Project Details

• Trailhead signs
Project Details

• Gates
Project Details

- Gates to be replaced
Project Details

- Bollards (to impede motor vehicles)

Figure 15
Option 1 is a padlock-operable folding bollard. It folds to within five inches of the top of the concrete base. Photo by TrafficGuard Direct.

Vehicles can drive over collapsible bollards without completely removing the bollard from the ground. Courtesy of Roanoke Valley Greenways.
Project Details

- Official parking areas
Prior Environmental Review

• Phase I Environmental Site Assessment: Chessie Trail April 13, 2010

• Limited Phase II Environmental Site Assessment: Chessie Trail, April 16, 2010
Coordination with Natural Resource Agencies

- US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- Department of Historic Resources (DHR)
- Division of Natural Heritage (DNH)
- Department of Game & Inland Fisheries (VDGIF)
- Marine Resources Commission (VMRC)

All approved, some conditions for further coordination
**Explanation of Environmental Impacts**

- **All items “No Impact” EXCEPT:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Geological resources, soil, bedrock, slopes, streambeds, landforms, etc.</td>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>Developing the parking area will require re-grading the slope from the main road. During construction, all vegetative and structural erosion and sediment control practices shall be constructed and maintained according to minimum standards and specifications of VA Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook and VA Regulations VR 625-02-00.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Land/structures with history of contamination/hazardous materials, even if remediated.</td>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>The Chessie Nature Trail is a brownfield due to residue from railroad days. However, the VA DEQ confirmed the project will not disturb enough material to have a significant impact. The scope of work was designed with sensitivity to limiting any possible exposure to contaminants both for workers and trail users.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Project Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase 1: January 2015</th>
<th>Replace Mill Creek gate, South River gate, and Buena Vista trailhead gate with bollards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Remove gates near McKethan Park and Trimble properties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Replace S. gate on Holland Property with new user-friendly gate – begin field testing this gate system</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Project Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase 2: March 2015 – May 2015</th>
<th>Develop Parking Area #1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Install new trailhead sign at Parking Area #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improve surface of trail starting from Rt. 11 Bridge and continuing on existing trail bed approx. 1 mile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Install strategy to allow slow flow of spring water under the new surface material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shore up eroded bank</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Project Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase 3: June 2015 – August 2015</th>
<th>Install new trailhead sign at South River</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Replace trailhead sign at Buena Vista terminus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Replace gates at Spence property (2) and Hill property (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Replace decking on Spillway, Mill Creek, and Warm Run bridges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Install handrails on Warm Run bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reinforce abutment on Mill Creek bridge</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Project Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase 4: TBD based on remaining funds available</th>
<th>Develop Parking Area #2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Resolution

• CFO statement containing:
  – VMI’s commitment to 20% match
  – Commitment to completing the project within 3 years
  – Budget commitment form showing that funds have been allocated
## Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL PROPOSED COST</strong></td>
<td><strong>$79,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20% Sponsor Match</td>
<td><strong>$15,800</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gates</td>
<td><strong>$8,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bollards</td>
<td><strong>$6,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail surface improvements</td>
<td><strong>$1,800</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>80% RTP Funding</strong></td>
<td><strong>$63,200</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking areas at 0.5 and 4.5 mile</td>
<td><strong>$30,200</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge repairs: decking, handrail</td>
<td><strong>$17,500</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Trail surface improvements</td>
<td><strong>$9,500</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signs at three trailheads</td>
<td><strong>$6,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Current Public Engagement

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