

Local Trail Projects Awarded Funding From State Prog.

Gov. Larry Hogan on Tuesday announced \$14.9 million in grants for bicycle, pedestrian and multi-use trails across the state, including Garrett County.

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) is awarding a total of 63 grants, including \$1.03 million in Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grants, \$2.77 million in Bikeways Program grants, and \$11.1 million in Transportation Alternatives Program grants.

MDOT awarded the grants to counties, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations.

Locally, Garrett County Community Action will receive \$29,157 for trail maintenance projects. The Department of Natural Resources was awarded \$30,000 for Potomac/Garrett Trail maintenance, \$30,000 to resurface and prevent erosion on the Hutton Handicapped Access Trail, \$30,000 for Negro Mountain Snowmobile Trail maintenance, and \$8,000 for Cunningham Swamp Wildlife Management Area

Trail maintenance. All of this funding will come in the form of RTP grants.

The program focuses on trail investments that close missing links in the statewide trail network. RTP provides funds for trail construction, enhancement, repairs, and maintenance of land and water trails.

The largest of the grants includes \$6.5 million in funding from both the Maryland Bikeways and the Transportation Alternatives Programs for the C&O Canal Aqueduct in Washington County. The grant will support economic development in the state by enhancing Maryland's attractiveness as a cycling and tourism destination.

The work includes replacing the missing sidewalk that was destroyed in 1920 and allowing the aqueduct to hold water again; improving structures; re-pointing existing stonework; and waterproofing and extending the Cushwa Basin.

The Maryland Bikeways Program offers grant assistance to local jurisdictions and other key agencies to help expedite the development of bicycle infrastructure where transportation efficiencies, multimodal travel, economic development, and safety benefits are expected.

The \$2.77 million in Bikeways Program Grants funds 17 projects, including projects that will:

- Construct a combined 1.05 miles of cycle track connecting Baltimore City's Jones Falls Trail through McKeldin Square and East and West Pratt Street;

- Deliver on-street bicycle improvements along Fitzwater Street in the city of Salisbury connecting across the Wicomico River;

- Expand Capitol Bike-share in Wheaton and Takoma Park.

The Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program provides funding for on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, environmental mitigation, safe routes to school projects and planning, designing, or constructing boulevards.

The \$11.1 million in TA Program Grants will fund eight projects, including projects that will:

- Construct 500 feet of

sidewalk in the town of Federalsburg allowing students to safely travel 1.24 miles to Federalsburg Elementary School;

- Design and develop a 1.2-mile extension of a shared use path in Queen Anne's County;

- Design a trail connection to fill a missing link in the city of Hagerstown (also funded in part by the Bikeways Program).

A complete list of grant-funded projects for each program can be found online at mdot.maryland.gov.