



NEWS RELEASE

VirginiaDOT.org

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CTB AWARDS \$3.5 MILLION IN TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT GRANTS TO PROMOTE CIVIL WAR AND WINE TOURISM IN VIRGINIA

71 Total Grants Awarded

RICHMOND – Yesterday, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) awarded \$3.5 million in transportation enhancement grants to support Virginia's commemoration of the Sesquicentennial (150th Anniversary) of the American Civil War.

The grants will fund an innovative partnership between the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC), the Virginia Wine Board, the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission, Virginia Civil War Trails, and the Civil War Preservation Trust. The unique venture capitalizes on the 150th anniversary of the Civil War to promote tourism and wineries throughout the Commonwealth.

The primary component of the project is the creation of a new multi-media information terminal for the Commonwealth's 11 welcome centers. These terminals will pull data from the various organizations' websites – such as directions to, and information on different battlefields and wineries – and will compile the information into one user-friendly device to enhance travelers' experiences in Virginia. Information displayed on the terminals will be based on VDOT's Scenic Roads Map with icons for battlefields, wineries, and other tourism destinations, and will allow users to search for specific destinations. Each icon will provide information about the destination, as well as information on other attractions and services in the area.

Other aspects of the partnership include the acquisition and preservation of historic battlefields, updating and reprinting the Civil War Trails map, fabrication and installation of new gateway signs, and a battlefield iPhone application.

Additional Grants Awarded

The CTB awarded a total of \$21.9 million in enhancement grants during its meeting in Richmond yesterday as part of the Transportation Enhancement Program. The funding will support approximately 71 projects throughout the state such as biking and hiking trails, crosswalks, pedestrian walkways, sidewalks and streetscaping, and transportation-related tourism initiatives.

“These Transportation Enhancement Grants – funded through designated federal funds set aside to promote these types of projects – allow Virginia to enhance its rich history, educate our citizens and visitors, and enhance the quality of life for all who call Virginia home,” said Sean T. Connaughton, Secretary of Transportation and chairman of the CTB. “This decision by the CTB to focus a large portion of this available funding to support this innovative, multi-entity Civil War partnership illustrates how we can all work together to make Virginia a better place to live and do business.”

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) provides federal funding for community-based projects that integrate transportation into communities. In accordance with SAFETEA-LU requirements, each state must set aside 10 percent of its federal Surface Transportation Program funds for enhancement projects. Each year, the CTB awards this funding to selected projects.

Other notable enhancement grants include:

- Full funding for sidewalk installation in the Town of Grundy that will provide improved access to the Appalachian School of Law
- Provides additional funding for the 31-mile Roanoke River Greenway pedestrian and bicycle system
- Construction of the Great Bridge Battlefield and Waterways Visitor Center , Park and Trail in the City of Chesapeake

- Streetscape improvements in the vicinity of Spotsylvania and Stafford County courthouse areas as well as within the Town of Marshall
- Construction of a multi-use trail in Fairfax County along the Pohick Stream Valley to connect existing trails, community and retail centers, and commuter train stations

To view a complete list of the projects awarded, visit

http://www.virginiadot.org/business/resources/transportation_enhancement/2010_EnhancementProgramFinalAllocations.pdf

For more information about the enhancement grants program, visit

<http://www.virginiadot.org/business/prehancegrants.asp>

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