

State of Maryland

2015 Bond Bill Fact Sheet

1. Senate LR # Bill #		House LR # Bill #		2. Name of Project
lr2569	sb0746	lr2976	hb1194	Cushwa Basin Area
3. Senate Bill Sponsors				House Bill Sponsors
Edwards				McKay
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)			5. Requested Amount	
Washington County			\$300,000	
6. Purpose of Bill				
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, and capital equipping of the Cushwa Basin Area project, including site improvements to parking lots and a boat dock, a rail trail, and open space				
7. Matching Fund				
Requirements:		Type:		
Equal		The matching fund may consist of in kind contributions.		
8. Special Provisions				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historical Easement		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sectarian		
9. Contact Name and Title		Contact Phone	Email Address	
Ben Helwig		3014916259	ben_helwig@nps.gov	
10. Description and Purpose of Grantee Organization (Limit Length to Visible area)				
<p>The Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park consists of nearly 20,000 acres of a diverse and scenic landscape that runs along the Potomac River from Georgetown, in the District of Columbia, to Cumberland, Maryland. The park serves many purposes and provides numerous educational, interpretive, and recreational opportunities that allow visitors to experience the cultural and natural resources along the ecologically important riparian area of the Potomac River. The towpath is used annually by five million hikers, bikers, and campers, constituting one of the most highly used and extensive recreational trails in the nation. From a historical perspective, the 184.5-mile canal stands as the most intact symbol of an era in American history when nearly 4,000 miles of canal were constructed during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.</p> <p>Our mission is to protect and preserve the park's cultural and natural resources, to educate the public about those resources, and to provide for public recreation and enjoyment. This project will help the park fulfill its mission by improving visitor safety and experience at the C&O Canal in Williamsport, Maryland, where over 200,000 of our 5 million visitors experience the canal each</p>				

11. Description and Purpose of Project (Limit Length to Visible area)

This project will reimagine the area around the C&O Canal in Williamsport Maryland through site work and site improvements as a fully accessible interpretive campus, where visitors can better experience the historic and recreational resources in this unique Maryland town. The project will plan, design, redesign and construct the improvements to the site, as follows. Two existing parking areas will be linked by the conversion of an abandoned rail bed to a fully accessible Rail Trail; one existing parking area will be expanded while the other existing lot will be reduced to a limited parking and a school bus drop/off area. Reducing one of the existing parking areas will dramatically increase the amount of green space in the historical site, as well as allow more room for picnicking, fishing, and recreation. The Rail Trail connecting the lots will include interpretive exhibits as well as linkages at either end to existing trails, creating a Williamsport trail loop through the site. All parking areas at the site will be improved to better manage storm run off. A boat dock will be installed within this redesigned area to support a canal tour boat for visitors to the C&O Canal. When completed, this project will improve parking, access, and the visitor experience at Williamsport, Maryland.

Round all amounts to the nearest \$1,000. The totals in Items 12 (Estimated Capital Costs) and 13 (Proposed Funding Sources) must match. The proposed funding sources must not include the value of real property unless an equivalent value is shown under Estimated Capital Costs.

12. Estimated Capital Costs

Acquisition	
Design	\$200,000
Construction	\$350,000
Equipment	\$50,000
Total	\$600,000

13. Proposed Funding Sources – (List all funding sources and amounts.)

Source	Amount
Maryland Bond Bill	\$300,000
C&O Canal National Historical Park	\$300,000
Total	\$600,000

14. Project Schedule (Enter a date or one of the following in each box. N/A, TBD or Complete)			
Begin Design	Complete Design	Begin Construction	Complete Construction
11/1/2015	11/1/2016	11/1/2016	5/13/2015
15. Total Private Funds and Pledges Raised		16. Current Number of People Served Annually at Project Site	17. Number of People to be Served Annually After the Project is Complete
0.00		235,000	285,000
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
2012 & 2013	275000.00	Lockhouse 44, Lock 44, and Western MD Railroad Lift Bridge	
2008	50000.00	Planning, design, and repair of the Conococheague Aqueduct	
2007	100000.00	Design Plans for Repair of Big Slackwater near Downsville	
2007	200000.00	Restoration of the Catoctin Aqueduct near Jefferson	
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park 1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100 Hagerstown, MD 21740		Located in Washington County in the C&O Canal National Historical Park between mileposts 99.0 and 100.0.	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located			
21. Legal Status of Grantee (Please Check one)			
Local Govt.	For Profit	Non Profit	Federal
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
22. Grantee Legal Representative		23. If Match Includes Real Property:	
Name:	Kevin D. Brandt	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	301-714-2201		No
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
C&O Canal National Historical Park 1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100 Hagerstown, MD 21740			

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
9	9	0.00	6000.00
25. Ownership of Property (Info Requested by Treasurer's Office for bond issuance purposes)			
A. Will the grantee own or lease (pick one) the property to be improved?			Own
B. If owned, does the grantee plan to sell within 15 years?			No
C. Does the grantee intend to lease any portion of the property to others?			No
D. If property is owned by grantee and any space is to be leased, provide the following:			
Lessee	Terms of Lease	Cost Covered by Lease	Square Footage Leased
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
E. If property is leased by grantee – Provide the following:			
Name of Leaser	Length of Lease	Options to Renew	
N/A	N/A	N/A	
26. Building Square Footage:			
Current Space GSF	N/A		
Space to Be Renovated GSF	N/A		
New GSF	N/A		
27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion			N/A

28. Comments: (Limit Length to Visible area)

Williamsport is the heart of the C&O Canal, located about midway between Georgetown and Cumberland, Maryland. The town offers more potential for interpreting the canals operation than any other single area along the canal. Restoration of the historic features of the canal at Williamsport begun over the past few years have already captivated and engaged visitors, both children as well as adults, with an immersion into canal heritage while stimulating tourism and bringing economic benefit to the area.

The area continues to lack a holistic design, mostly because the area has been fragmented by various parking lots, both planned and unplanned, over the years. These existing parking lots detract from the historical landscape of the site. The area also suffers from a lack of green space for visitors to recreate, picnic, and enjoy the historic structures and buildings surrounding them. Finally, the existing hard packed gravel parking lots, in an ad hoc formation around historic structures, can be hazardous to visitors and the historic structures, while lacking any design to control runoff into the Potomac River.

This planning, design and building project will go a long way towards creating an interpretive campus in the area around Williamsport, while improving runoff and increasing visitor understanding and safety. In addition, the Rail Trail will create an accessible approximately 1.5 mile hiking loop through the area. Through innovative interpretive signage and mobile technology, the footprint of the entire area will become an interpretive campus for visitors to enjoy. There is an ongoing economic benefit to local tourism through increased visitation - the current annual overall economic impact of the C&O Canal in Washington County is \$5.6 million. The 2012 inauguration of the Williamsport canal boat program saw an increase of over 94,000 visitors to the area in the first year alone. From a historical and educational perspective, this project's value is priceless. The tourism and educational value to Williamsport is immeasurable. It will enable tens-of-thousands of school children and additional visitors to experience and understand the 19th and early 20th century history of Maryland, the C&O Canal, and early transportation in America.