



Project Summary 2009

SB-2009-ME-55696: **Blackwoods Byway
Planning and Administration**

State Submission Date

Feb 20, 2009

Division Submission Date

not submitted

State Priority

0

This application must be completed online at <http://www.bywaysonline.org/grants/>, and submitted electronically and in printed form.

Project Category

Which category best describes the location of this project?

- Project that is associated with a highway that has been designated as a National Scenic Byway, All-American Road, or one of America's Byways.
- Project along a State or Indian tribe scenic byway that is carried out to make the byway eligible for designation as a National Scenic Byway, an All-American Road, or one of America's Byways.
- Project that is associated with the development of a State or Indian tribe scenic byway program.

Choose from the following categories of eligible work the type that best fits your project.

- Byway Programs
- Corridor Management
- Safety Improvements
- Byway Facilities
- Access to Recreation
- Resource Protection
- Interpretive Information
- Marketing

Is this application a resubmission of an unfunded project from a previous year?

- Yes (resubmission of SB-2008-ME-55200)
- No

Project Location

State(s) involved in project:

Maine

Indicate the byway's regional location within the State. Reference prominent landmarks such as parallel major highways, natural features, counties, or large cities, that makes the byway(s) easy to locate in a road atlas.

The Blackwoods Scenic Byway is located in eastern Maine along State Route 182 between the historic towns of Franklin and Cherryfield.

Briefly describe the project's location(s) on the byway using references to route numbers, byway gateway communities, project location communities and landmarks so any reviewer can identify the project sites.

The proposal implements the Corridor Management Plan adopted by the host communities and the State of Maine in August, 2005, affecting the entire byway. The Corridor Management Plan and other byway information is available at www.blackwoodsbyway.org.

Associated Byways

State	Byway Name
ME	Blackwoods Byway

Is this project consistent with the Corridor Management Plan(s) for the byway(s) involved?

- Yes
- No / CMP not available

Congressional Districts

State	District	Representative (at time of application)
ME	2	Michaud, Michael H.

Abstract

Project Description

Complete the sentence "This project will..." before adding remaining information.

This project will implement the Corridor Management Plan adopted by the host communities and signed by the State of Maine in August, 2005. This plan highlights scenic, historic, geological and recreational assets located on this unique road first designated as a scenic byway by the state of Maine in 1971. The Corridor Management Plan is available online at www.blackwoodsbyway.org. This first corridor management plan identifies goal, objectives and strategies for byway promotion, preservation, education and safety.

Byway Benefits

Complete the sentence "This project benefits the byway traveler by..." before adding remaining information.

This project benefits the byway traveler by organizing and supporting local byway advocates to promote and preserve the unique and largely undiscovered assets along this byway. Funding will support significant improvements in the fledgling website www.blackwoodsbyway.org, production of a byway map brochure, planning and administration for projects along the byway and local organizing for byway litter control, graffiti removal and other visitor-friendly byway priorities.

Narrative

Project Summary

Completely describe all the major elements of your proposed project in a concise but complete summary.

Work Plan for FY 2008-2009

The Blackwoods byway has become a confluence of pro-conservation and pro-visitation forces in this small part of Eastern Maine has generated a lot of excitement. Local entrepreneurs are exploring new opportunities in what has been a very tough economy for many years. We anticipate that 2009 and 2010 will require higher levels of coordination than in past years. This coordination will take place on several levels:

1. Consistent monthly coordinating meetings of the Byway Corridor Committee: including representation of the towns, the Department of Transportation, Department of Conservation, Land Use Regulation Commission, USDA Rural Conservation and Development and regional planning commissions. We are in the process of seeking an extension for this byway to include the Town of Franklin and to cross the balance of Cherryfield. The extension would engage the town of Franklin to a greater extent than in the past.
2. Project construction planning and administration: work during this time period is expected to include improvements to lake access, hiking trail planning, construction and management, addition of visitor amenities and coordination with privately funded initiatives. The Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands is an active partner in our effort to establish a system of overnight backpacking and water trails that parallel the byway. New points of access and amenities are under discussion now.
3. Visitor information and education: this byway has many remarkable assets that are overlooked by motorists as they pass through. We need to increase the amount and quality of information and interpretation along the byway. Funds from this grant will help us to move ahead on planning and implementation of informational programs, both through the Blackwoods website, printed materials and interpretive stations.
4. Protection of scenic assets: A conference on Scenic Viewshed Preservation was convened in March 2007. This conference launched new initiatives along Maine's byways to open scenic vistas that have been blocked by tree growth as well as protect vistas through better land use planning.

Benefit to Byway Traveler

Describe how the proposed project will benefit a byway traveler, add to their travel experience or fulfill an important objective of your CMP.

Byway travelers are already benefiting from activation of this long dormant byway. Partners from local, regional and state government are working together to improve conditions along the road.

The Maine Department of Transportation pushed this byway forward and resurfaced the entire byway in 2007. This project improved safety and comfort for travelers and partially opened some scenic views.

The center piece Tunk Lake boat launch area has expanded parking and will soon have a new privy facility. Trail planners are working now to identify routes from this facility to the network of trails crossing Tunk, Catherines, Black and Schoodic Mountains.

A big landmark will be set in 2009 with the opening of the Down East Sunrise trail that crosses the byway in Franklin and again in Cherryfield. This multi-use trail creates new opportunities for tourism and outdoor recreation.

The direct benefits to travelers will be most evident in the educational materials that we provide through our website, www.blackwoodsbyway.org, and through state tourism information and in printed maps and brochures.

This funding provides support for local staff to organize community support for the byway, provide area residents and visitors with educational information about the Blackwoods Scenic Byway and fund travel of corridor committee members to state and regional Scenic Byway conferences and workshops.

Indirect benefits arise out of the improvements that we are making to the byway with an activated and organized base of citizens, regional and state representatives.

Our dual goals of promoting preservation and visitation require planning and management. Efforts in the coming year will include coordinating an increasingly complex mix of users, including cars, RVs, ATVs, snowmobiles, bicycles, boats and hikers. As we improve trails that cross and in some cases run parallel to the byway, we will be working to

segment our visitors, providing ATV's with multi-use trails and providing hikers and paddlers with quiet places to recreate. Failure to implement this transportation network in coordination with the byway may dampen visitors experiences and harm the environment.

Prior Projects

Describe any relationship between this project and previously funded National Scenic Byways Program grant projects. In addition, discuss how the proposed work relates to any multi-year work plan byway leaders have developed.

This project carries on work funded in the 2006 Blackwoods Scenic Byway Planning and Management grant.

Project Coordinator

Please provide contact information for a person responsible for this project.

Name: James Henry Fisher

Title: Senior Planner

Organization: Hancock County Planning Commission

Address: 395 State Street
Ellsworth, ME 04605

Phone: (207) 667-7131

Fax: (207) 667-2099

E-mail: jfisher@hpcme.org

Work Plan

Milestone/ Task	Start Date	Duration	Responsible Party	Justification
Establish funding agreement with State	AAD*			
Corridor Committee Education and Travel	AAD + 1 month*	12 months	Jim Fisher, Hancock County Planning Commission	<p>We propose to set-aside adequate funding for members of this committee to attend Eastern Maine, State of Maine and/or northern New England Scenic Byways and related workshops or conferences.</p> <p>If funds are adequate one representative might also be assisted in attending a national byways conference if any are held during this grant cycle. Our committee represents local towns and several state conservation and recreation agencies. This support will help them to integrate byway goals and objectives in their broader community service efforts.</p>
Marketing and Communications	AAD + 1 month*	12 months	Jim Fisher, Hancock County Planning Commission	<p>The corridor committee has agreed on the need to prepare educational materials to build greater awareness of the byway, increase visitation, and encourage low-impact uses. These educational initiatives will include creating small, but functional visitor brochures and informational postings at a number of popular stops.</p> <p>Funds will be used to improve and maintain the byway web pages and provide press releases to local news organizations about events, including our Annual Earth Day roadside cleanup.</p>
Planning and Administration	AAD + 1 month*	12 months	Jim Fisher, Hancock County Planning Commission	<p>This activity keeps the wheels spinning. Support for planning and administration for the Blackwoods byway will be essential as we move forward. Improvements in the past year at Tunk Lake Spring River turnout have given us a base for additional interpretive and recreational planning. With the planned extension of the byway through Franklin and Cherryfield, we will be expanding the number and locations of byway meetings as well as public outreach.</p> <p>This grant will further our effort to coordinate resources. We are excited by the opportunity to coordinate the extended byway with the Down East Sunrise Trail and public reserve lands hiking trails.</p> <p>This work will be carried out by staff from the Hancock County Planning Commission and the Washington County Council of Governments.</p>

* AAD = Actual Award Date (estimated to be August 01, 2009)

Budget

Cost Breakdown

#	Description	Total Cost	Requested	Match
1.	Planning and Administration	23,500	20,000	3,500
2.	Committee Education and Travel	1,500	500	1,000
3.	Marketing and Education	6,250	4,500	1,750
Total		\$31,250	\$25,000	\$6,250

Matching Funds

Source	Type	Description	Amount
Maine Department of Transportation	Cash		2,750
Cherryfield Narraguagus Historical Society	Services (Non-state or Non-federal)	Design and layout of Brochure for Cherryfield Historic District	500
Quimby Family Foundation	Cash		3,000
Total			\$6,250

Funding Allocation

Do the byways involved in the project cross any Federal Lands? (Check all that apply)

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- USDA Forest Service

If this project is selected for funding, please indicate your preference for carrying out the project (check one):

- FHWA allocates the funds for the project to the State DOT
- FHWA allocates the funds for the project to one of the Federal Land Management agencies marked above (provide contact information below)
- FHWA allocates the funds for the project to an Indian tribe or tribal government (provide contact information below)

If funding should be allocated to a Federal land management agency or Indian tribal organization, please provide contact information for that organization:

Name:
Title:
Organization:
Address:
Phone:
Fax:
E-mail:

Application Checklist

The following statements are for informative purposes. Please read and check each statement.

- I understand that this is a reimbursement program - funds are not available up-front.
- I have reviewed and responded to the Complete Application statements as outlined in the Grants Guidance.
- I have been in touch with the State scenic byway coordinator and have responded to recommendations or requirements of the State.
- I have verified with the State byway coordinator that this proposed project can receive authorization to proceed from the State and FHWA division before the end of the fiscal year for which the application is made.

Attachments

Use this as a checklist to verify that all attachments are provided with your printed application.



Blackwoods Byway Overview Map

This map indicates the location of the proposed planning and administrative activities. Detailed maps are available on request.

Digital version: [blackwoodsbywaymap.jpg](#) (112.1 KB)



Blackwoods Byway Goals, Objectives and Strategies

This excerpt for the adopted Corridor Management Plan summarizes our planning and administration targets.

Digital version: [sb182goals.pdf](#) (89.4 KB)



□ **Blackwoods Byway Action Plan**

This six year plan action implements the goals and objectives adopted for the Blackwoods byway. This grant will use this document to guide activities of the committee.

Digital version: [sb182actionplan.pdf](#) (54.5 KB)

Signatures

Application Completeness

I certify that this application is complete and correct, and is eligible for National Scenic Byways funding. (This should be completed by the State's scenic byways coordinator.)

Please print name:	Title:
Signature:	Date:

Matching Funds Certification

I certify that the matching funds for this project are available for use at the time of application.

Please print name: Duane Scott	Title: State Byway Coordinator
Signature:	Date: