

Appalachian Transportation Institute (ATI) Research Project Description

Project Number: ATI TRP 99-26

Project Title: Beckley Exhibition Mine Expansion - Project Management and Evaluation for a Transportation Enhancement Project to be built along a National Scenic Byway in WV

Primary Investigator Contact Information:

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Project Objective: The objective of this project is to develop a successful model for project development, management and evaluation for transportation enhancement projects to be constructed along a National Scenic Byway in Southern WV. i.e. Coal Heritage Trail.

Abstract: The Coal Heritage Trail has recently been designated as a National Scenic Byway with dedicated funding (\$2 million per year for three years) for transportation enhancement projects along the trail. This project PI has been working with the city of Beckley WV for several years to define and prepare three separate proposals that have succeeded in winning nearly \$1 million dollars in construction funds to develop a Coal Mining Interpretive Center at the current Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine. The site and proposed construction has significant environmental, worker health and safety and regulatory concerns. This project will facilitate a project management role for ATI related to logistical/fiscal feasibility and environmental quality in addition to establishing an evaluation methodology for this and similar projects along the trail.

Task Descriptions:

1. Project Management Plan including construction and procurement scheduling and matching strategies.
2. Construction Management Plan to ensure environmental quality and regulatory obligations.
3. Development of an Evaluation Methodology to study the economic impact of the Project.

Milestones, Dates, Schedule: Start Date: 01/12/01 End Date: 08/31/02

Budget: \$50,000.00

Student Involvement: The project will provide employment support for at least 1 undergraduate and 1 graduate student. The student workers will support the Principal Investigator as project assistants. This project is not anticipated to lead to a student thesis directly.

Relationship to Other Research Projects: None at this time.

Technology Transfer Activities: Final reports will be available on the ATI website. All, ATI Principal Investigators will present findings through the ATI Transportation Seminar Series to invited guests from WVDOT, USDOT, other ATI Principal Investigators, students and other invited guests. Other opportunities to present the project results will be explored including conferences and peer reviewed journals, etc.

Potential Benefits of this Project: Successful construction of a significantly challenging (more than typical) transportation enhancement construction project since some of the work will be performed in an underground coal mine. The project could be used as a model for other projects along the trail in terms of successful matching strategies in addition to the evaluation methodology that will result. The completed project, has the potential to bring international attention to the site and this National Scenic Byway increasing the number of new visitors to the Byway and increasing the economic impact of the facility for the region.