



Project Summary 2007

SB-2007-NH-54362: **Saco Lake Shoreline Protection and Naturalization**

State Submission Date

Jan 31, 2007

Division Submission Date

Mar 19, 2007

State Priority

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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
- No

Project Location

State(s) involved in project:

New Hampshire

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 White Mountain Trail National Scenic Byway is located in northern New Hampshire approximately 2 hours north of Concord, NH and travels through the heart of the White Mountain National Forest. The White Mountain Trail National Scenic Byway on Route 302 passes through Crawford Notch on the southern end of the Presidential Mountain Range in the Town of Carroll, Coos County.

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 Saco Lake project location is along the White Mountain Trail – Route 302 twenty-five miles west of North Conway, NH north of Crawford Notch State Park and six miles east of Twin Mountain, NH just past the Mount Washington Hotel and Resort. The project location is directly across from a previous National Scenic Byways funded project – the Crawford Notch Depot Visitor Information Center funded in 2000.

Associated Byways

State	Byway Name
NH	White Mountain Trail

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)
NH	2	Hodes, Paul W.

Abstract

Project Description

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

This project will re-create a natural buffer of native plants, a shoulder with granite curbing, run-off control improving natural resource and scenic values. The current shoreline is significantly impacted by the proximity and raw un-vegetated shoulder of the byway. Approximately 1200 acres of curbing would control pull-off parking, currently a safety hazard, and control road run-off and shoulder erosion impacts discharging directly into the lake. The vegetative buffer would stabilize the shore, restore habitat and vastly improve aesthetics. An extension of the Saco Lake Trail would help protect the shoreline, add access for a popular fishing location, and enhance the visitor experience.

Byway Benefits

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

This project benefits the byway traveler by enhancing and protecting the natural resource, scenic, and cultural values of this significant location along the White Mountain National Trail National Scenic Byway. An historic location for recreation, tourism, and contemplation, the lake and its surroundings resonate with the 7million visitors each year to the surrounding White Mountain National Forest. Recent traffic counts collected by the NH Department of Transportation indicate 3000 AADT near Saco Lake on US Route 302.

Narrative

Project Summary

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

Saco Lake is located along the White Mountain Trail National Scenic Byway which was designated a State Scenic and Cultural Byway June 29, 1994 and a National Scenic Byway on July 15, 1998. With the designation of the White Mountain Trail to the National Scenic Byway, visitation has increased at a faster rate than we were previously experiencing.

The proposed implementation elements are part of the recommended improvements that were included in the North Country Corridor Management Plan developed in 1996 with ISTEA funds. The work done as part of this Corridor Management Plan included the identification of the significance of the White Mountain Trail and was a contributor to the nomination and designation of the White Mountain Trail to the National Scenic Byway Program.

Increased visitation and road traffic necessitates improvements be made to the lake shore along the scenic byway through stabilization, re-vegetation, and a safer more established delineation of an existing ad hoc footpath to enhance the visitor experience. Currently, visitors walk along the roadway and the ground between the road and lake, causing both a safety problem and an environmental problem. This will provide an off-road path to address that safety issue.

Curbing and Run-Off (Item #001): Work necessary to improve aesthetics and run off includes the installation of curbing and improved drainage.

No additional parking is planned as part of this project, simply safety and natural resource improvement to what currently exists. Additional parking has been discussed between the major parties (USFS, NH DOT, NH PARKS, and AMC) but no agreement has been reached as of yet. Future improvements may be planned if such an agreement can be met as to location.

Safety issues addressed to date include the installation of NH DOT signage at the gateway of the notch and before the Mt. Clinton Road, warning of congested area and sharp curve with a low rate of speed suggested. No designated crossing has been identified to date because it would encourage pedestrians to cross the roadway. This is the current policy of DOT for this type of situation.

An environmental review will be part of the NH DOT permitting package. It is anticipated the bank to the Lake, not the shore will be impacted. A DES permit is not required, just a work notification. The State of NH Trails Bureau will be notified of the plans before construction begins.

Stabilization/Re-naturalization including native appropriate vegetation (Item #002): Native plantings along with loam and erosion control matting if needed will be used to stabilize the area. This work will bring the area back to what can be seen on photographs of the area from the past.

Improvements to an existing ad hoc footpath (Item #003): Currently an established footpath (Saco Lake Trail) exists around fifty percent of the lake. The project would extend the established footpath along the byway side of the lake enhancing safety, protecting vegetation, and providing recreational access for pedestrians and fly fisherman. Currently The Saco Lake Trail is maintained (adopted) by the AMC through an agreement with the US Forest Service. The proposed improvement of the ad hoc footpath as part of this project would be included in this agreement with the US Forest service.

Project Partners Include: Appalachian Mountain Club NH Department of Transportation United State Forest Service

The NH Department of Transportation would assume ownership, maintenance and operational costs of the road improvements.

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.

Saco Lake, the headwaters of the Saco River, with its prime location at the dramatic northern end of Crawford Notch along the White Mountain Trail National Scenic Byway on Route 302, is a significant scenic, natural, and cultural resource of the White Mountains region. The Saco River is a designated river in New Hampshire's Rivers Management and Protection Program. For more information pertaining to the river's unique natural and recreational resources as well as its Corridor Management Plan, see www.des.state.nh.us/rivers/saco1.htm or www.des.state.nh.us/rivers/plans/sacoplan.htm. The notch itself sits on the divide of two important watersheds, the Ammonoosuc River draining westerly to the Connecticut River and Saco River easterly to the Gulf of Maine. Project enhancements would help to prevent road contaminants from entering the headwaters of the river affecting both natural and recreational resources as it travels through New Hampshire to Maine. The diversity of the surrounding ecosystems – lake, wetlands, streams, successional fields, hardwood and boreal forests, and higher up, alpine zones is a prime draw to casual travelers and organized groups alike on foot, by car, motor coach, or train. The existing Saco Lake Trail allows for interpretation and contemplation of the surrounding natural environment with ease.

Crawford Notch is steeped in the human culture of the White Mountains and Appalachian range. The notch is well known as the birthplace of White Mountain tourism where over one hundred years of hotel lodging has existed near the shores of Saco Lake catering to weary travelers and mountain explorers alike. By the mid nineteenth century artists interested in depicting the raw beauty of natural landscapes had discovered the notch and its surrounding scenic peaks and cascades. Today's byways traveler can still enjoy similar vistas today including one of the most well represented in the White Mountain art world – Saco Lake in Crawford Notch.

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.

Located directly across the byway from the proposed project site is the Crawford Notch Depot Visitor Information Center owned and operated by the non-profit Appalachian Mountain Club. The Depot serves as a primary contact point to tens of thousands of visitors annually who benefit from both cultural history displays and local hiking and tourist information. Previous funding received through the National Scenic Byways program in 2000 allowed enhancements to the cultural and educational displays in the Visitor Center, rebuilt the covered passenger platform, constructed a state of the art composting toilet facility, and provided additional associated parking. The Crawford Notch rail line runs through the notch carrying a seasonal scenic train operated by the Conway Scenic Railroad Company.

Project Coordinator

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

Name: Greg Placy

Title: District Engineer

Organization: NH Department of Transportation

Address: 641 Main Street
Lancaster, NH 03584

Phone: 603-788-4641

Fax:

E-mail: gplacy@dot.state.nh.us

Work Plan

Milestone/ Task	Start Date	Duration	Responsible Party	Justification
Establish funding agreement with State	AAD*			
Curbing and Run-Off	AAD + 3 months*	4 weeks	NH Department of Transportation	Work is necessary to improve aesthetics and run off and includes the installation of curbing and improved drainage. Milestones would include developing detailed plans, seeking approval for final plans, and construction of improvements.
Stabilization and Re-naturalization including native appropriate vegetation	AAD + 4 months*	2 weeks	NH Department of Transportation and Appalachian Mountain Club	Native plantings along with loam and erosion control matting if needed will be used to stabilize the area. This work will bring the area back to what can be seen on photographs of the area from the past.
Improvements to existing ad hoc footpath	AAD + 5 months*	2 weeks	Appalachian Mountain Club	Currently an established footpath (Saco Lake Trail) exists around fifty percent of the lake. The project would extend the footpath along the byway side of the lake (approximately 1/4 mile) enhancing safety, protecting vegetation, and providing recreational access for pedestrians and fly fishermen. Currently, visitors walk along the byway side of the lake and have created an informal path. This has caused both a safety problem and an environmental problem, by adding to the runoff problems into the lake.

* AAD = Actual Award Date (estimated to be March 01, 2008)

Budget

Cost Breakdown

#	Description	Total Cost	Requested	Match
1.	Design/Engineering	40,000	32,000	8,000
2.	Right-of-Way	5,000	4,000	1,000
3.	Construction	200,000	160,000	40,000
Total		\$245,000	\$196,000	\$49,000

Matching Funds

Source	Type	Description	Amount
NH Department of Transportation	Cash		42,260
Appalachian Mountain Club	Services (Non-state or Non-federal)	Labor and materials	6,740
Total			\$49,000

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

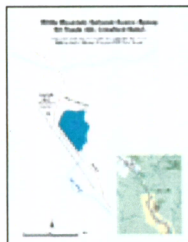
Use this as a checklist to verify that all attachments are provided with your printed application.



Map of New Hampshire

This map indicates the location of this project relative to the State and other projects.

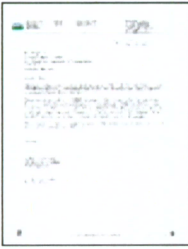
Digital version: [Map of Statewide Projects2007.pdf](#) (814.2 KB)



Saco Lake Project Map

The attached map details the specific project location and surrounding points of interest. It also includes a regional locator inset placing it in the larger context of the surrounding public land resources and continuing byway route

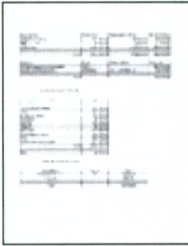
Digital version: [Saco Lake Map.pdf](#) (85.3 KB)



□ **US Forest Service Letter of Support for Project**

The attachment highlights the support of local White Mountain National Forest officials for the project adding value to the White Mountain Trail National Scenic Byway and national forest visitor experience.

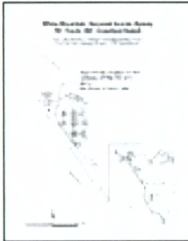
Digital version: [WMNF_Ltr_Support_Saco_Lake_Shoreline_Protection.pdf](#) (15.4 KB)



□ **Match documentation**

This information is an estimate of the work and materials to be contributed by AMC.

Digital version: [SacoEstimate.pdf](#) (19.0 KB)



□ **Saco Lake Project Map #2**

This map shows where the project projects will be.

Digital version: [ScenicMap.jpg](#) (485.9 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: William Watson, Jr. P.E	Title: Administrator, Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance
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: William Watson, Jr. P.E	Title: Administrator, Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance
Signature:	Date: