

Location:	McDonald Borough, Washington County, District 12-0
Completion Date:	10.10.03
Construction Cost:	\$2,019,000
MPMS #:	50738
Contact Information:	Domenic Sacchetti 724.439.7380 dsacchetti@state.pa.us
Themes:	Accommodate all modes of travel
Project Overview:	<p>The project included the completion of the rail/trail conversion of the Montour Railroad corridor through Washington County. The project was possible by utilizing a unique funding opportunity that required regional coordination with various special interest groups and leveraging funding programs of various state agencies.</p> <p>The Montour Trail Council is a member of Allegheny Trail Alliance. The Allegheny Trail Alliance, which manages the Great Allegheny Passage, is a coalition of seven trail-building organizations in southwestern Pennsylvania and western Maryland whose purpose is to assure the construction, maintenance and use of the multi-purpose trail between Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Cumberland, Maryland, where the trail will join the C&O Canal Towpath Trail which continues on to Washington, DC.</p> <p>All phases of this enhancement project were funded with Federal dollars (100%) which is unique in that typical funding for enhancement projects requires a 20% match. This project and several others along the Great Allegheny Passage used the rehabilitation of the Big Savage tunnel as their match. The Big Savage tunnel rehabilitation costs are approximately \$11,000,000 and were funded through DCNR. Since the project's funding was viewed as part of the main line corridor on a whole, the typical 80/20 funding scenario was not implemented on individual projects.</p>
Lessons Learned:	The opportunity to fund several projects 100% through the design phase as well as construction was created by leveraging the DCNR funding for Big Savage Tunnel against the mainline corridor. Thus, the sponsor was able to plan and design a large scale project at one time rather than piecemeal several small projects.

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