

JAN. 08 1992



United States Department of the Interior



DELAWARE AND LEHIGH NAVIGATION CANAL
National Heritage Corridor Commission
10 East Church Street, P-206
Bethlehem, PA 18018

Keep

January 2, 1992

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Senator Jeanette F. Reibman
P.O. Box 18
458 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Senator Reibman:

1991 was a year of accomplishment, 1992 is a year of opportunity for the Delaware and Lehigh Navigation Canal National Heritage Corridor. **This is an informal report on what we have done, where we are, and what we plan for the immediate future.**

Congress supplies \$350,000 per year through the National Park Service to be used to operate the Commission and to fund the studies involved. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has designated this Corridor as a State Heritage Park planning area. The State supplies about \$300,000 through the Department of Community Affairs to be used for planning and Early Implementation projects.

Our Primary Goal ---

The primary goal of the Commission is to prepare a Management Action Plan for submission to the Governor and the U.S. Secretary of the Interior by the middle of 1992, as required by Public Law 100-692 of 1988 which set up this National Heritage Corridor. The purpose of this Act is "to provide a management framework to assist the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions in developing and implementing integrated cultural, historical, and natural resource policies and programs that will preserve and interpret for the educational and inspirational benefit of present and future generations the unique and significant contributions to our national heritage of certain historic and cultural lands, waterways, and structures within and surrounding the Delaware and Lehigh Navigation Canal in the Commonwealth."

Commission Accomplishments in 1991 ---

- Received and evaluated most of the consultant studies designed to identify the major assets of the Corridor, and to recommend what should be done to preserve/restore/develop/interpret those assets to about two million residents and ten million visitors a year. Here are the primary studies ---

STUDIES

CONSULTANT

<p>Cultural Landscape Assessment - to identify the unique man-made communities in the Corridor and to propose policies and actions for preservation and management of significant cultural landscapes.</p>	<p>Penn State University - Department of Landscape Architecture</p>
<p>Folklife Resources Assessment - to identify our ethnic heritage involving some fifty immigrant groups.</p>	<p>Pennsylvania Heritage Affairs Commission with ETHNOLOGICA-LeeEllen Freidland & Associates</p>
<p>Natural and Recreational Resources Assessment - to identify and prioritize natural and recreational features in the Corridor and determine recommendations for high priority sites for consideration by Commission.</p>	<p>Bucks County Conservancy, Wildlands Conservancy, and The Nature Conservancy</p>
<p>Historic Resources Survey - to identify and summarize the major historic themes of the Corridor: coal, iron, steel, canals, railroads, farming, cement, slate, lumber, as well as settlement patterns over three centuries.</p>	<p>Hugh Moore Historical Park and Museums, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Bucks County Conservancy, National Park Service -- Cultural Resources Management and Planning & Development</p>
<p>Historic Resources and Programs Analysis - to identify the nearly 200 museums and historical organizations and to develop recommendations for creating an integrated Corridor effort.</p>	<p>Mary Means & Associates</p>
<p>Land and Scenic Resources Inventory, Analysis & Recommendations - to recognize the development pressures and opportunities in this area and to formulate options for coping with them.</p>	<p>Carter Van Dyke & Associates</p>
<p>Economic Resources Inventory, Analysis & Recommendations - to consider the economic development/redevelopment potential of the Corridor with nearly seventy separate communities.</p>	<p>Hammer, Siler, George Associates</p>
<p>Interpretive Resources Inventory, Analysis & Recommendations - to consider presenting and educating the public regarding the many and varied assets of the Corridor.</p>	<p>Ellen Fletcher, Consultant</p>

- Pursued a public involvement strategy to educate, inspire, and involve the roughly 2,000,000 residents and myriad organizations along this 150-mile Corridor. Here are the primary means ---

Public Meetings on topics set by the Commission --- about seventy-five meetings involving a thousand people who were specialists in specific fields.

Public Meetings set by community groups --- at least fifty gatherings involving more than 2,000 residents.

Community planning film about the Corridor shown to about 600 community leaders.

Newspaper tabloid insert distributed to 366,000 households in October.

Corridor newsletter mailed or given to about 2,000 community leaders and interested persons.

Press Kit for the 100 media organizations in this area.

Commission Meetings held bi-monthly, which are advertised and open to the public. These meetings take place in a variety of locations along the Corridor.

- Engaged Mary Means and Associates to start bringing our research and recommendations together into a coordinated Management Action Plan.
- Coordinated with a series of State agencies (Department of Community Affairs, Department of Environmental Resources- Bureau of State Parks, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and Pennsylvania Heritage Affairs Commission), as well as numerous county and municipal bodies, under the planning and coordination assistance of the National Park Service, Mid-Atlantic Regional Office in Philadelphia.
- Pursued a rails-to-trails initiative involving Conrail, four counties, and numerous municipalities, with the assistance of the National Park Service, to try to ensure a continuous hike/bike right-of-way for nearly ninety miles between Easton and Wilkes-Barre.
- Received a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grant for the development of a signage system for the Corridor.

Accomplishments by Others Relating to this Corridor ---

- Lehigh River Foundation was formed as a business community group in support of the Corridor Commission. Not only did the Foundation contribute private matching funds in support of the State's annual funding, but it raised more than \$150,000, a major portion of which is being used to create a promotional film about this Heritage Corridor,
- Friends of the Delaware Canal, which covers the southern third of the Corridor, have contributed matching funds to support the state grant and have contributed \$100,000 in private funds to the Bureau of State Parks to help purchase a canal dredge. The Friends have taken on numerous local projects which won them the "Take Pride in Pennsylvania" award for the fourth consecutive year and a national "Take Pride in America" first place award with a White House reception in 1991.
- The five county planning and parks departments involved in this southeastern Pennsylvania region have begun building the Corridor into their long-range plans.
- Numerous colleges (Lehigh University, Lafayette College, Muhlenberg College and Luzerne County Community College) have initiated educational programs related to the Corridor.

Early Action Projects ---

With funding from the State, administered by the Department of Community Affairs, the Commission has provided seed money to support the following local initiatives ---

- Huber Breaker study in Ashley, just south of Wilkes-Barre. This huge coal breaker was measured and drawn by the Historic American Engineering Record, a division of the National Park Service.
- Trail, Recreation, Access, Interpretation and Linkage Program (T.R.A.I.L.) grants to fulfill these goals. Specific matching funds have been made, or are under immediate consideration, for the following applicants:

Bristol Borough - Clearing and improvement of parkland adjacent to the Delaware Canal.

New Hope Borough - possible construction of a pedestrian bridge across the Delaware Canal.

City of Bethlehem - clearing and improvements to portions of the old Lehigh Canal towpath through two counties, three cities, a township and a borough.

Carbon County - clearing and improvement of sections of the Lehigh Canal towpath as it passes through seven communities in the county.

It is our estimate that every dollar of federal or state money for Early Action projects is being matched by between five and ten dollars of community funds. Much of the latter is from business, foundation and private sources.

Honors and Publicity for the Corridor ---

- Prominent mention as part of the Bethlehem 250th Anniversary celebration.
- 1991 Pocono Northeast Community Award winner from the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania.
- Professional visit by a delegation of Russian park planners.
- Presentation on the NHC and heritage park planning at the NPS-cosponsored "Partnerships in Parks & Preservation" conference in Albany, New York.
- Presentation on the NHC at the International Canals conference, Akron, Ohio.
- Presentation on the NHC and the public planning process at "The Heritage Development in America" conference, Washington, DC.

Plans for the Immediate Future ---

- Complete the Management Action Plan (MAP) promptly.
- Coordinate with local and State governments and our U.S. Congressmen and Senators on a few fairly obvious Early Action Projects, which may be possible to implement before the MAP is completed and fully approved.
- Employ an interpretive specialist who will supervise the NEA signage grant and work with local institutions to coordinate their interpretive programs to present a full picture of the Corridor, along with doing numerous other interpretive projects.
- Continue to develop and implement the programs described earlier in this report.

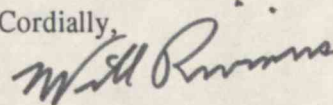
This is a summary of what we have done in 1991, where we are today, and what we expect to do in 1992.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please let me know.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Very Best Wishes for 1992!

Cordially,



Willis M. Rivinus
Chairman

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