

## 7 Schematic Cost Estimates

In the 1999 Gap Assessment Report, NYPCA identified the following costs for the proposed Champlain Canal Trail: *“The standard cost estimate for stone dust trail surfacing being used by NYS Canal Corporation for the Canalway Trail at this date is \$85,000 per mile. This estimate does not include trail amenities such as benches, kiosks, parking areas, bridges, camping or picnic areas or signage. In this trail section a portion of the cost has been estimated for on-road signage and striping.”* NYPCA estimated the cost of the project at \$1.160 million dollars. While this amount may be reasonable for a 9.5 mile crushed stone path and 13 miles of minor roadway improvements, these figures should be considered as a ‘baseline’ or first phase of trail development. They do not take into account the complete range of improvements required for full development of the Champlain Canal Trail in Saratoga County.

Ultimately, the corridor should include a both shared use path and a bicycle-friendly roadway design, along with preservation of the Old Canal and interpretation of the historic and cultural significance of the corridor. In the long term, it is possible to create a continuous shared-use path the full length of the County, along with an upgraded Bike Route 9 on-road facility. Typical trail sections are assumed to be 10-foot path surface with 2-foot shoulders each side. Taking into the account the drainage, road crossings, interpretive facilities and other aspects of this corridor, unit cost projections for the Old Champlain Canal trail can be projected as follows:

### Preliminary Unit Costs: Saratoga County Champlain Canal Trail

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
**Crushed Stone Surface	Miles	\$ 100,000 / mile	\$ 1.4 million	Preferred in rural sections between towns (20 miles total, 3 existing)
Asphalt Surface	Miles	\$ 225,000 / mile	\$1.35 million	For high maintenance urban sections (approx. 6 miles)
Urban Bike Lanes	Miles	\$ 10,000 / mile	\$ 60,000	Enhancement of Bike Route 9 in urban sections (approx. 6 miles)
Signage / Markings	Miles	\$ 5,000 / mile	\$ 130,000	Integrate with Lakes to Locks Passage
*Culverts / Drainage	Approx. 20 locations	\$ 10,000 each	\$ 200,000	Provide for canoe and kayak access
Parking and Trailheads	5 Locations	\$ 25,000 each	\$ 125,000	Provide in urban areas to enhance economic development
Interpretation	Multiple locations	\$ 5,000 / mile	\$ 130,000	Includes signage and milepoint sculptures
Trail Maintenance	Per year	\$ 6,500 / mile	\$ 169,000	Source: Trails for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century
Marketing / Promotion	Per Year	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	Maps, brochures, etc.

## CHAMPLAIN CANAL TRAIL CONCEPT PLAN - SARATOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

### Notes:

\* Culverts / Drainage: Includes crossings of minor roads and adjacent landowner access. Proposed costs to repair structure, paint and install new deck on the Dix Bridge over the Hudson River have been estimated at \$1.5 - \$2 million as part of the proposed Bi-County Park. Schuylerville / Old Champlain Canal Lock Repairs for downtown boat harbor access is estimated at approximately \$500,000. These costs are not included in the above figures since they are elements of other ongoing projects.

\*\*Trail Surface: The 6 mile City of Mechanicville has applied for funding for a 6-mile section based on an asphalt surface for \$1.3 million dollars, or \$225,000 / mile. For the purposes of this document, a crushed stone surface is proposed for rural sections between towns, with asphalt provided in urban areas. This is consistent with the NYS Canal Corporation trail development program. Costs do not include acquisition of rights-of-way or improvements associated with maintaining the Canal waterway.

These are conceptual amounts which represent a range of potential costs. More information on land ownership, hydrology and engineering analysis will be required to develop detailed estimates of project costs. These schematic costs represent a long-term range of between \$3 to \$5 million dollars for development of the 26-mile trail corridor the length of Saratoga County, with both on-road and off-road improvements. The first phase implementation of a crushed stone surface on the existing 13.5 miles of publicly owned right-of-way combined with upgrades to the Bike Route 9 on-road route is estimated at a base cost of \$1.16 million. Also note that a significant opportunity exists for this trail to be built with local products and materials as a 'made in Saratoga' project. Examples include local crushed stone for the trail surface, local sod for the grass shoulders, milepoints designed by local artists and rest stops serving local ice cream and farm products. With an estimated 200,000 trail users per year and an economic development potential of \$1.5 to \$2 million dollars per year, this trail would represent a significant positive investment.



The new Waterford Harbor Visitor's Center is a model for the future of the Champlain Canal in Saratoga County.