

APPENDIX B: Empire State Trail Town Funding Opportunities

Funding resources are available at the local, state, and federal level, as well as from private funding. Application consideration should be dependent on the project details, amount, and familiarity with the kind of work being proposed.

A number of U.S. Department of Transportation funding sources can be used for bicycle and pedestrian-related purposes. More information on these federal funding can be found [here](#). Note that much federal funding is directed to the state to be disseminated. Information on how federal funding is used by the New York State Department of Transportation can be found [here](#).

Other state grant programs that can be used for bicycle infrastructure include:

[Canalway Tourism Infrastructure and Events Grants](#). This program from the New York State Canal Corporation and administered by the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor funds projects that demonstrate some or all of the following for the NYS Canal System including the Canalway Trail: facilitate recreation and/or tourism, enhance visitor amenities, encourage overnight stays, improve the visitor experience, make recreational and tourism assets more accessible, attract and serve diverse audiences, and improve connectivity between recreation areas and communities or between waterways and land trails.

[Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Programs \(CHIPS\)](#). This formula driven program is administered by the NYSDOT to assist localities in financing the construction, reconstruction, or improvement of local transportation infrastructure.

[Recreational Trails Program](#). This federally funded program is administered by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, and provides funds to States to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized trail uses.

Grant opportunities from private organizations include:

[Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation: Parks, Trails and Green Design](#). The foundation accepts grant applications year-round from nonprofit organizations impacting the communities in Western New York and Southeast Michigan and strategically working within one of their focus areas, one of which is Active Lifestyles: Parks, Trails and Green Design.

[Project for Public Spaces Community Placemaking Grants](#). Project for Public Spaces' Community Placemaking Grants enable US-based nonprofits and government agencies to address this inequality of access by working directly with local stakeholders to transform public spaces or co-create new ones.

[American Trails' Trail Capacity Program](#). The Trail Capacity Program will be administered by the Trails Move People Coalition, a diverse coalition of trail user groups, led by American Trails, and will support grants for trail maintenance, research, and stewardship training all across the country, serving all types of trail users.

[League of American Bicyclists Community Spark Grants](#). These grants will award up to \$1,500 to each organization to build local capacity for projects and programs that reach people across the wide range of a community's demographics and help create communities where bicycling is a safer, easier, and a more accessible option for people of varying ages, abilities, and disabilities.

[People for Bikes](#). The PeopleForBikes Industry Community Grant Program provides funding for projects that make bicycling better in communities across the U.S.

[National Endowment for the Arts: Our Town Grants](#). Our Town is the NEA's creative placemaking grants program. Through project-based funding, the program supports activities that integrate arts, culture, and design into local efforts that strengthen communities.

[Preservation League of New York: Preserve New York and Technical Assistance Grants](#): Preserve NY makes grants for historic structure reports, building condition reports, cultural landscape reports, and cultural resource surveys. Technical Assistance Grants provide support for consulting projects that preserve New York State's cultural and historic resources.