

Project Summary 2002

FHWA National Scenic Byways Program

All sections must be completed on an electronic form at <http://www.byways.org>
Applications must be submitted online and on paper.

State Submission Date <i>not submitted yet</i>	Division Submission Date <i>not submitted yet</i>
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Project Info

Project Name Building Mt. Baker Community	Project No.
	Applicant's Reference No. 1
Project Year 2002	
Counties and/or Regions Involved Whatcom County, Northwest Region of Washington State, Mt.Baker/Snoqualimie Natl. Forest	
Location of Project along Byway(s) Mt.Baker Scenic Byway	
Federal Lands Crossed by Involved Byway(s) BIA, USFS	

Associated Byways

State	Byway Name	Details	
WA	Mount Baker Highway (Route 542)	Designation Date 1967	Intrinsic Qualities* N,R,S
		Byway Organization Whatcom County Council of Governments 2011 Young Street Bellingham, WA 98225 Phone: 360 676 6974 Fax: 360 738-6232 E-mail: ellen@wccog.org	

*IQ codes: A - Archaeological, C - Cultural, H - Historical, N - Natural, R - Recreational, S - Scenic

Project Category

Project Type

Project along a State-designated scenic byway that is carried out to make the byway eligible for designation as an All-American Road or a National Scenic Byway.

Is the project consistent with the Corridor Management Plan for the byway(s)?

Yes

Project Category (Continued)

Eligibility Category

Resource Protection

Is this application a copy of a previously submitted application or a revision of a prior non-funded application?

Yes

Ready-to-Go

Prior Projects

FHWA Proj No.	Year	Project Name	Amount	Status
SB-1999-WA-6	1999	Mt. Baker Highway: Marketing Program	\$38,800	Completed
		Project Coordinator: Gordon Rogers, Planning Director		
SB-1996-WA-13	1996	Mount Baker Highway (WA 542): Corridor Management Plan & Interpretive Brochure	\$17,600	Completed
		Project Coordinator: Ellen Barton, Transportation Projects Specialist		
SB-1999-WA-7	1999	Mt. Baker Highway: Interpretive Signs & Sites	\$22,960	Started
		Project Coordinator: Gordon Rogers, Planning Director		
SB-1999-WA-9816	1999	Glacier Visitor Center	\$19,680	Started
		Project Coordinator: Gordon Rogers		

Project Abstract

The purpose of Building Mt. Baker Community is to bring together our communities to achieve a goal common to all of us: planning and preserving the heritage that sustains our quality of life. Major changes have affected the Mt. Baker region in the years since the Mt. Baker Corridor Management Plan (CMP) was written: economic changes, water management, forest harvests, farming practices and salmon protections are creating tensions between members of the local community. While some residents of rural and forestry areas welcome visitors and the new economic opportunities, others are concerned about the changes this shift is bringing. Working together, our result will be a plan that fulfills the top priority recommendation of the CMP: to strengthen and unify the corridor community while furthering economic stability for the region.

Project Narrative

BACKGROUND

Majestic Mt. Baker towers above the Whatcom County landscape, an awe-inspiring view for miles around. The gifts of the mountain have sustained our communities for thousands of years and continue to sustain the Mt. Baker Scenic Highway. But the citizens and the children of Whatcom County have lost touch with the richness of Mt. Baker's natural and historic heritage, the heritage which defines our culture. Until recently, every family had a daily connection with the land through work in the forests or fields or rivers. Now, with economic changes, this vital knowledge is being lost. Building Mt. Baker Community will restore this connection through educational and interpretive sites, events and documents: connecting us to the land, the forests and our heritage.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of Building Mt. Baker Community is to bring together our communities to achieve a goal common to all of us: planning and preserving the heritage that sustains our quality of life. Major changes have affected the Mt. Baker region in the years since the Mt. Baker Corridor Management Plan was written: economic changes, water management, forest harvests, salmon and farming practices are creating tensions between members of the local community. The U.S. Forest Service is a major landholder on the mountain and visitor numbers have increased dramatically. While some residents of rural and forestry areas welcome visitors and the new economic opportunities, others are concerned about the changes this shift is bringing. The resulting plan will fulfill the top priority recommendation of the CMP: to strengthen and unify the corridor community while furthering economic stability for the region.

URGENT NEED

The forces of three concurrent challenges are converging on the Mt. Baker Corridor Community (MBC), forcing the community to deal with issues which did not even exist 6 years ago when we wrote our Corridor Management Plan. The need to strengthen, unify and build on our CMP is urgent if we are to successfully confront these economic and cultural challenges:

Endangered Species Listing of Salmonids: Every resident and business along the corridor is experiencing the effect of new regulations to protect the endangered salmon. Throughout Mt. Baker history, outdoor river recreation has been a major employer in the region. Now activities such as river rafting, canoeing, sport fishing, and swimming are all likely to be limited in order to protect the fish. Sustaining economic viability requires a more intensive and strategic plan to manage outdoor recreation in light of this change.

Forestry Harvesting Restrictions: Washington Department of Natural Resources has issued regulations restricting the amount of harvestable timber in forests affected by the Salmonid Listing (above). These reductions will reduce the tax base for the Mt. Baker School District by at least \$3 million, an amount impossible to make up in property taxes.

Canadian Border "Transparency": Thanks to the on-going work of the International Mobility and Trade Corridor group, the border crossing will be quicker and easier within a few years. That means the more than 6 million people living in the Greater Vancouver area will begin an influx of vacationers and new residents which could change the demographic and cultural identity of this quiet rural mountain region.

CAPACITY BUILDING

The core participants of the MBC are already working together to build the capacity of the community to handle these new regional events. The East Whatcom County Economic Development Report was compiled in 1999 by the Foothills Chamber of Commerce and the Mt. Baker Steering Committee in partnership with the Port of Bellingham. Recommendations in the report (attachment 4) echo those in the CMP giving specific steps to strengthen the region's economic opportunities, steps incorporated into Building Mt. Baker Community.

Project Narrative (Continued)

Likewise, the 1999 Mt. Baker Highway Corridor Marketing Plan emphasized the economic potential of the region's history and cultural attractions. The Bellingham/Whatcom Convention and Visitors' Bureau took action to address some customer service concerns identified in the plan (see attachment #3). However, it appears that a deeper issue is involved than simply customer service: through our work with the MBC, it is clear that the marketing study did not create a sense of "buy in" from local residential and community groups. This has led to a division of opinion among the planning groups working in the region. Building Mt. Baker Community is our key opportunity to heal these misperceptions, strengthen the community foundation, and fulfill our CMP goals.

REALIZING POTENTIAL

Survey findings in the Marketing Plan showed that "Cultural" and "Historical" sites were the only two (out of 16) registering a negative visitor satisfaction score. For example, the array of historic photographs in Graham's Store in Glacier are subject to water damage and difficult lighting, and offer little in the way of explanation. Cultural and Historic resources represent rich opportunities for the MBC. Building Mt. Baker Community leverages the work of two landmark volunteer history research projects currently underway in Maple Falls and Glacier to begin to address this failing. These volunteer historians are transcribing the stories of early settlers who are now very elderly: there is no time to lose.

STRATEGIC NECESSITY

By addressing these issues in 2002 we can leverage the work of the Port of Bellingham (comprehensive economic and resident survey of region), the work of the Mt. Baker Foothills Steering Committee (Chain of Trails planning project), a planning internship project with Western Washington University, as well as the landmark history research mentioned above. The budget for the project should be viewed in the context that it addresses in detail the seven distinct regions along the byway -- essentially completing the equivalent of seven distinct CMPs. These regions have no other direct source of funding for planning and have languished for almost 100 years now without the attention they deserve as key parts of our national heritage.

Work Plan

Line Item	Task/Milestone Description	Start Date/ Duration	Work Category
001	Build Community Capacity	01 Jan 2003 14 months	Resource Protection
Responsible Party: Mt. Baker Corridor Community			
Justification: Task 1: Build the capacity of the Mt. Baker Corridor Community (MBC) to address the changing the local economy by strengthening community identity. This will be accomplished through the formation of seven linked community planning areas representing distinct geographic communities along the byway. Tentative community planning areas are shown on Attachment # 1.			
002	Strengthen the Planning Team	01 Jan 2002 14 months	Resource Protection
Responsible Party: Mt. Baker Corridor Community			
Justification: Task 2: Expand and strengthen the MBC to include new groups affected by the federal regulatory changes instituted since the CMP was written. Work with partner organizations to			

Work Plan (Continued)

002	form a task force representing the seven different planning areas. Identify concerns unique to each geographic area.		
003	Workshops for baseline data	01 Mar 2002 3 months	Resource Protection
	Responsible Party: Maple Falls History Project		
	<p>Justification: Task 3: Conduct three outreach workshops for each of the planning areas to elicit base-line data on the ways that residents currently feel their area is connected to the byway, the local culture and the area's history. Additionally, compile data on residents' interests in future connectivity with the byway and Mt. Baker.</p>		
004	Address new federal requirements	01 May 2002 5 months	Resource Protection
	Responsible Party: Whatcom County Council of Governments		
	<p>Justification: Task 4: Work with each planning area group to identify the local effects of the recent federal changes in the management of forestry, water, fish, and wildlife. For each of the planning-areas, identify action strategies that will address these changes in economically positive ways and ways that strengthen the community identity of the MBC. Increase the level of trust among diverse participant interest groups and the governmental bodies representing enforcement and resource management.</p>		
005	Preserve historical resources from loss	01 Apr 2002 9 months	Resource Protection
	Responsible Party: Mt. Baker History Project		
	<p>Justification: Task 5: Support the volunteers and research work of the Maple Falls History project and Mt. Baker History project by assisting in the publication of historic documents and photographic archives. Develop an action plan for the preservation of resources currently in danger of damage or loss. Incorporate and disseminate these projects' relevant historic information into the Building Mt. Baker Community plan to assist residents in understanding the values, quality of life, and traditions of the byway.</p>		
006	Address marketing concerns	01 Jul 2002 4 months	Resource Protection
	Responsible Party: Whatcom Council of Governments		
	<p>Justification: Task 6: Conduct three workshops for each planning area to address concerns about marketing the byway. Develop action strategies which preserve values and features of the local communities while allowing considered methods to engage the economic opportunities of increasing visitor numbers. Identify divergent needs and interests and create action plans to address them.</p>		

Work Plan (Continued)

Line Item	Task/Milestone Description	Start Date/ Duration	Work Category
007	Unify CMP in relation to USFS	01 May 2002 7 months	Resource Protection
	Responsible Party: U. S. Forest Service		
	Justification: Task 7: Expand, unify and strengthen the CMP to reflect the more specific needs and plans of the seven corridor areas. Assist the U. S. Forest Service to incorporate a cohesive byway corridor message in the development of its long-term work plans for site development and interpretation.		
008	Address Quality of Life Concerns	01 Sep 2002 4 months	Resource Protection
	Responsible Party: Mt. Baker Corridor Community		
	Justification: Task 8: Identify and inventory the quality of life issues for each of the planning areas. Assist area groups to create action plans for preservation of desired quality of life items. Develop consensus about the types of actions which community members agree would tend degrade quality of life. Link these action plans to those developed in Task 6.		
009	Compile plan elements	01 Sep 2002 4 months	Resource Protection
	Responsible Party: Whatcom Council of Governments		
	Justification: Task 9: Compile the Building Mt. Baker Community plan including specific sites, events, stories, scenes, or themes identified by the planning areas as essential to connection with the byway and the history and culture of the region. These could be public recreation areas which require preservation, or art installations, or school educational events, or interpretive panels, or photo or video presentations to inform visitors of area attractions which would be damaged if viewed in person.		
010	Rating and Evaluation	01 Nov 2002 3 months	Resource Protection
	Responsible Party: Mt. Baker Corridor Community		
	Justification: Task 10: Create and disseminate a rating matrix for use in evaluating the projects and determining funding priorities. Compile and prioritize an expanded, more detailed, project priority list for the corridor, building on the list in the CMP. Work with representatives of the entire MBC to develop recommendations for overall priority projects and gather feed-back from area groups. Evaluate the recommendations with respect to the baseline data gathered in Task 3.		
011	Draft Final Plan Review	01 Jan 2003 2 months	Resource Protection
	Responsible Party: Mt. Baker Corridor Community		

Work Plan (Continued)

011	<p>Justification: Task 11: Public Review of the draft plan will elicit comments and corrections on the final plan. The published result will be a series of detailed planning “chapters” including essential information for funding and executing each of the projects. Each plan item or “chapter” will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Conceptual designs · Cost estimates · Environmental analysis · Permit requirements identified · Partners and individuals involved <p>The written document will be used by the agencies and organizations of the MBC working to implement to goals of the Mt. Baker Corridor Plan.</p>		
012	Final Plan production	01 Mar 2003 1 month	Resource Protection
Responsible Party: Whatcom Council of Governments			
<p>Justification: Task 12: Final production, distribution and adoption of the plan.</p>			

Budget

Line Item	Description	Total Cost	Request Amt.
001	Build Community Capacity	\$22,586	\$19,636
002	Strengthen Planning Team	\$14,216	\$10,960
003	Workshops for baseline data	\$17,654	\$13,000
004	Address new Federal Requirements	\$22,470	\$17,220
005	Preserve Historical Resources from Loss	\$16,616	\$8,970
006	Address Marketing Concerns	\$7,472	\$4,300
007	Unify CMP in relation to USFS	\$22,625	\$18,100
008	Address Quality of Life Concerns	\$10,622	\$6,776
009	Compile Plan Elements	\$12,712	\$3,790
010	Rating and Project Evaluation	\$9,000	\$6,000
011	Draft Final Plan Review	\$27,950	\$20,650
012	Final Plan Production	\$10,650	\$10,650

Budget (Continued)

Line Item	Description	Total Cost	Request Amt.
Totals		\$194,573	\$140,052

Match amount (total cost - requested amount) is \$54,521 or 28.0% of total.
 Match accounted for in Match Breakdown is \$54,521 or 28.0% of total.
 These two amounts must be equal for the Budget and Match sections to be complete.

For your information, 80% of Total Cost is \$155,658, and 20% of Total Cost is \$38,915.
 Your match amount cannot be less than 20% of Total Cost.

Match Breakdown

Source	Description	Type	Value
Mt. Baker Steering Committee	8 volunteer members, 3 hours per meeting, 14 months, \$12.50 per hour valuation	Non-Govt. Services	\$4,200
Lummi Tribal Council and Fisheries Commission	3 volunteers, 14 monthly meetings of 1 hour each, \$12.50 per hr.	Non-Govt. Services	\$2,025
Paradise/Peaceful Valley Community Club	5 volunteers, 2 hours ea of 4 meetings, 12.50 per hour	Non-Govt. Services	\$500
Van Zandt Community Association	12 volunteers, 4 quarterly 3 hour meetings, \$12.50 per hour	Non-Govt. Services	\$1,800
Maple Falls Community History Project	8 volunteers, 11 hours per month, 9 months, \$12.50 per hour	Non-Govt. Services	\$6,950
Nooksack Tribe and Fisheries Commission	10 volunteers, 1 hourly meeting per 4 quarters @ \$12.50 per hour	Non-Govt. Services	\$500
U. S. Forest Service		Cash	\$11,500
Whatcom Land Trust	2 volunteers, 4 meetings, \$12.50 per hour	Non-Govt. Services	\$100
Whatcom Museum of History and Art	40 volunteers, two monthly presentations, approx 2 hours, \$12.50 per hour	Non-Govt. Services	\$1,000
Mt. Baker History Project	1 volunteers, 40 hours per month, 12 months, \$12.50 per hour	Non-Govt. Services	\$5,000

Match Breakdown (Continued)

Source	Description	Type	Value
Squalicum High School P.T.A.	10 volunteers, 4 quarterly 1 hour meetings, \$12.50 per hour	Non-Govt. Services	\$500
Silver Beach Neighborhood Association	11 volunteers, 4 quarterly 1.5 hour meetings, \$12.50 per hour	Non-Govt. Services	\$600
Bellingham Riding Club	approx. 33 volunteers, one 2-hour meeting, \$12.50 per hour	Non-Govt. Services	\$600
Back Country Horsemment	approx. 23 volunteers, one 2-hour meeting, \$12.50 per hour	Non-Govt. Services	\$550
Nooksack Nordic Ski Club	8 volunteers, one meeting, \$12.50 per hour	Non-Govt. Services	\$100
Mt. Baker Hiking Club	8 volunteers, one meeting, \$12.50 per hour	Non-Govt. Services	\$100
Mt. Baker Bicycle Club	15 volunteers, 14 monthly meetings, one hour each, \$12.50 per hour	Non-Govt. Services	\$2,625
Whatcom Independent Mountain Pedalers	8 volunteers, one meeting, \$12.50 per hour	Non-Govt. Services	\$100
Foothills Chamber of Commerce	8 volunteers, 4 one-hour meetings, \$12.50 per hour	Non-Govt. Services	\$400
Future Farmers of America	8 volunteers, one meeting, \$12.50 per hour	Non-Govt. Services	\$100
Sumas Chamber of Commerce	16 volunteers, 2 two-hour meetings, \$12.50 per hour	Non-Govt. Services	\$800
Nooksack Chamber of Commerce	16 volunteers, 2 two-hour meetings, \$12.50 per hour	Non-Govt. Services	\$800
Mt. Baker School District School Board	10 volunteers, 1 two-hour meeting, \$12.50 per hour	Non-Govt. Services	\$250

Match Breakdown (Continued)

Source	Description	Type	Value
Kendall School P.T.A.	10 volunteers, 1 two-hour meeting, \$12.50 per hour	Non-Govt. Services	\$250
North Fork Community Network	8 volunteers, 1 two-hour meeting, \$12.50 per hour	Non-Govt. Services	\$200
South Fork Community Network	30 volunteers, 1 two-hour meeting, \$12.50 per hour	Non-Govt. Services	\$500
Mt. Baker Ski Area		Cash	\$5,000
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife	Use of office, site, materials	Materials	\$480
North Cascades Institute	20 volunteers, 1 two-hour class, 12.50 per hour	Non-Govt. Services	\$1,000
Trillium Corporation	Use of office, site, materials	Materials	\$430
Glacier Merchants' Association	9 volunteers, 4 meetings, 3 hours each, \$12.50 per hour	Non-Govt. Services	\$600
Bellingham/Whatcom Convention and Visitors' Bureau		Cash	\$4,961
Total			\$54,521
<p>Total from items above: \$54,521 or 28.0% of total. Match amount from Budget: \$54,521 or 28.0% of total. These two amounts must be equal for the Budget and Match sections to be complete.</p> <p>For your information, 80% of Total Cost is \$155,658, and 20% of Total Cost is \$38,915. Your match amount cannot be less than 20% of Total Cost.</p>			

Project Coordinator

Coordinator Name Ellen Barton		
Agency/Group Planning/ Whatcom County Council of Governments		Title Transportation Projects Specialist
E-mail Address ellen@wcog.org		
Phone 360-676-6974		Fax 360-738-6232
Street Address 314 East Champion Street		
City Bellingham	State WA	ZIP 98225

State Program

State WA	Byway Program Start Date 01 Jan 1967	
Scenic Byway Agency Washington State Dept. of Transportation-Heritage Corridors Pgm.		
State Scenic Byways Coordinator Lorenzo Judy		
E-mail Address lorenzj@wsdot.wa.gov		
Phone 360-705-7274		Fax 360-705-6839
Street Address P.O. Box 47393 310 Maple Park Drive		
City Olympia	State WA	ZIP 98504-7393

Signatures

State Scenic Byways Agency

Judy Lorenzo
Heritage Corridors Program

Date

Matching Funds Certification

Judy Lorenzo
Heritage Corridors Program

Date

Congressional Members

Associated States

State	Senators
WA	Cantwell, Maria Murray, Patty

State Representatives

State	District	Representative
WA	2	Larsen, Rick

Attachments

- Map showing proposed planning areas
- Map showing geographic interest areas of partner organizations
- Recommendations from Mt. Baker Corridor Marketing Plan
- East Whatcom County Economic Development Report (excerpts)
- Match funding detail
- Letter of support: North Fork Community Network
- Letter of support: Maple Falls History Project
- Letter of support: Whatcom Museum of History and Art
- Letter of support: Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association
- Letter of support: Congressman Rick Larsen
- Letter of support: Senator Maria Cantwell
- Letter of support: Senator Patty Murray
- Letter of support: Whatcom Land Trust
- Letter of support: Mt. Baker Bicycle Club
- Letter of support: Foothills Chamber of Commerce
- Letter of support: Port of Bellingham
- Letter of support: Mt. Baker History Project
- Letter of support: U. S. Forest Service
- Letter of support: Washington State Department of Transportation
- Letter of support: Mt. Baker School District
- RTPO Validation Form
- Match Source Summary Sheets
- Partner Organizations List