

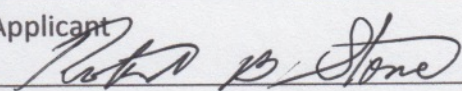
Project Prioritization Cover Sheet



Transportation Improvement Program

CONTACT	Contact Information		
	Agency/Organization	The Cocumscussoc Association/Smith's Castle	
	Contact Person	Marilyn Cohen	Title Site Committee
	Mailling Address	55 Richard Smith Drive	
	City	North Kingstown	Zip Code 02852
	Phone	401-789-1452 (M.Cohen)	Email marilyncohen@hotmail.com

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION	Project Prioritization <i>please use an additional sheet if necessary</i>			
	Priority	Listed in TIP 2013-2016		Project Name
		Yes	No	
	High	X		Smith's Castle Transportation Alternative Project

CERTIFICATION	Applicant Certification	
	The information provided on this application is in accordance with local regulations and ordinances.	
	Robert Stone	President
	Applicant 	Title December 31, 2015
Signature	Date	

Submittal Checklist

- 3 collated copies of complete TIP submittal package
 - Project Prioritization Cover Sheet
 - New Project Application Form for each new project
 - 2-page narrative on evaluation criteria
 - 8.5" x 11" PDF map of project location
- Email a copy of complete TIP submittal package to Kimberly.Crabill@doa.ri.gov or provide on a CD
- Submit complete TIP submittal package to:
 - Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program
 - ATTN: Kimberly Crabill
 - One Capitol Hill
 - Providence, RI 02908

ALL APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 3:00PM ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2016



The Cocumscussoc Association
55 Richard Smith Drive
Wickford, Rhode Island 02852

December 30, 2015

Rhode Island Transportation Advisory Committee
C/o Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program
ATTN: Kimberly Crabill
One Capitol Hill
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

RE: TIP 2017-2025 Transportation Alternative Project (TAP)
Smith's Castle/The Cocumscussoc Association

To the Members of the Rhode Island Transportation Advisory Committee:

The Cocumscussoc Association is pleased to submit a request for continued listing on the State Transportation Improvement Program as a Transportation Alternative Project. Smith's Castle is an iconic historic site in Rhode Island and one of its earliest settlements. An early trading post, it reflects the historic transportation network existing in the 17th century. It is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is designated a National Historical Landmark based on archaeological work at the site.

In 2002 Smith's Castle was awarded an enhancement grant of \$200,000 for improvements designed to expand and facilitate the visitor experience at the site. The Association was informed recently that to continue receiving funding for the grant, it would need to formally resubmit an application. In late 2005 TCA was granted permission to hire a consultant to prepare a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), the basic historical and cultural documentation for the site. Over the past decade over \$135,000 has been invested in the preliminary planning and analysis necessary to fully implement the enhancement grant award; only \$32,500 of the enhancement funds have been expended with the remainder leveraged from other public and private sources. The narrative attached demonstrates the methodical approach to bringing the project to a successful completion and the extent of volunteer time devoted to the project.

If additional information is needed or members of the TAC have questions about the submittal, please feel free to contact our Site Committee member Marilyn Cohen by telephone 401-789-1452 or by email marilynfcohen@hotmail.com.

Sincerely,

Robert Stone, President

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Cc: MCohen; MSkenyon; SDanforth DBoule
Attachments

Smith's Castle, North Kingstown
Transportation Alternative Project (TAP) Narrative
December 2015

Smith's Castle is an iconic historic site in Rhode Island and one of its earliest settlements. An early trading post, it reflects the historic transportation network that existed in the 17th century. It is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places and designated a National Historical Landmark based on archaeological study. As such, the preliminary work required prior to an infrastructure investment was extensive. The Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), prepared between 2006 and 2009, proved to be an important document for the Smith's Castle site. Traditionally The Cocumscussoc Association (TCA) had focused primarily on the historic castle structure, to the relative exclusion of the acres of woodland and water that surrounded it. The CLR fostered a new look at the landscape that surrounds the house and an assessment of environmental issues, including the effect of climate change and site resiliency. Historic farm trails have been cleared for walking and future plans include interpreting the remains of several centuries of built structures and using surrounding woodlands to educate the public on the nature of the transformation of landscape, in this case, from intensive agricultural use to fallow land. This TAP, then, is the cornerstone of a larger plan to provide enhanced public access to the natural and built features that tell the story of the 23-acre historic site.

Project History

In 2002 Smith's Castle was awarded an enhancement grant of \$200,000 for site improvements to expand and facilitate the visitor experience. Project components included the preparation of a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), design/engineering for a widened entrance at US Route 1, a bus drop-off area and loop road, pedestrian walkways, parking, improved signage, lighting, and drainage, and landscape improvements. In late 2005 TCA was granted permission to hire a consultant to prepare the CLR, the basic historical and cultural documentation for the site.

- 2006-2007: CLR (Phase 1), for the entire site. *\$19,990 RIDOT Enhancement funds*
- 2008: Geophysical Archaeology Scan and Excavation. *\$70,000 RIDOT Historic Preservation Office*
- 2009: CLR (Phase 2). *\$7,500 RIDOT Enhancement funds; \$4,000 National Trust for Historic Preservation*
- 2010: Priorities Preservation Plan *\$6,000 RIHPHC*; wetlands delineation and topographic work *RIDOT Enhancement funds \$4,500*;
- 2013: Completion of wetlands delineation and mapping *\$18,590 CRMC*.

Between 2011 and 2013, Smith's Castle endeavored to find funding to prepare a site master plan to properly integrate the enhancement grant elements consistent with the CLR findings and the use of the site in to the future; finding the funds proved more challenging than anticipated. By late 2013, discussions with the University of Rhode Island Landscape Architecture Department led to a master planning effort begun June 2014 and completed in 2015, funded by the URI Transportation Center and a grant from the Felicia Fund. That portion of the master plan relevant to the TAP is attached.

Over \$150,000, \$32,500 from the enhancement grant, has been invested in the CLR and baseline studies along with thousands of hours of time devoted by Smith's Castle volunteers, many of

them with professional links to historic preservation; North Kingstown staff also contributed input to the master plan. The Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission has been involved with the process for the last decade and CRMC staff have reviewed the master plan and provided direction. The full master plan has been submitted to CRMC for a Preliminary Determination. The project is ready for detailed design and engineering.

The goal of The Cocumscussoc Association is to secure the remaining funds for implementation of as much of the project as funds will allow. Most recently TCA has been 1) working with RIDOT to assess the costs of the improvements and 2) prioritizing the improvements. To that end, TCA has determined the following priorities: the widened entrance; the loop road and associated storm water system; and a new, but downsized, parking area suitable for bus parking.

Project Selection Criteria

Cost Effectiveness

- The proposed Smith's Castle entrance improvements support the Post Road upgrade.

Safety and Security

- This project will correct the current dangerous and poorly designed entrance/exit onto Post Road (Rt. 1) from Richard Smith Drive, a public thoroughfare.
- It will create safe, lighted pedestrian access to Smith's Castle along Richard Smith Drive from the proposed parking area.
- The project will minimize current conflict points between pedestrian and vehicular traffic and improve the internal circulation pattern on site.
- A widened entrance will facilitate turns for buses and the general public in and out of the site.
- The loop road will eliminate the need for buses to back up on site.
- The loop road provides greater accessibility for handicapped visitors.

Environmental Impact

- The master plan enhancement elements reflect the input from CRMC relative to storm water management and minimizing the impact on property wetlands.
- Storm runoff from parking areas and roadways will be directed to natural filtering areas/basins.
- The project will enhance the visitor experience to one of Rhode Island's earliest settlements and trading posts.

Economic Development

- Currently, the entrance to the Smith's Castle site is poorly marked and easily missed by potential visitors to the site, while parking and traffic patterns are confusing. The project's re-design of these elements will make this historic site more accessible to tourists, school groups, and other visitors.
- A focus on the historic house AND its landscape will expand the visitor base.
- Improved facilities will expand the use of the site for special events such as weddings and the like.
- Enhancement funds used to date, \$32,500, have leveraged in excess of \$100,000 in other public and private funds.

Support for Local and State Transportation Goals

- Upgrade of the Post Road corridor is a high priority for North Kingstown's economic development plan.
- Support by Town of North Kingstown is demonstrated as the project is listed on the Town's TIP 2017-2025 submittal.
- The project supports the Town's goal of protecting its historic resources and telling the story of how transportation in The 17th Century led to the trading post location.
- The site master plan provides off-road bicycle connections and a link to the trails in Cocumscussoc State Park.

ed Signage (N/S)

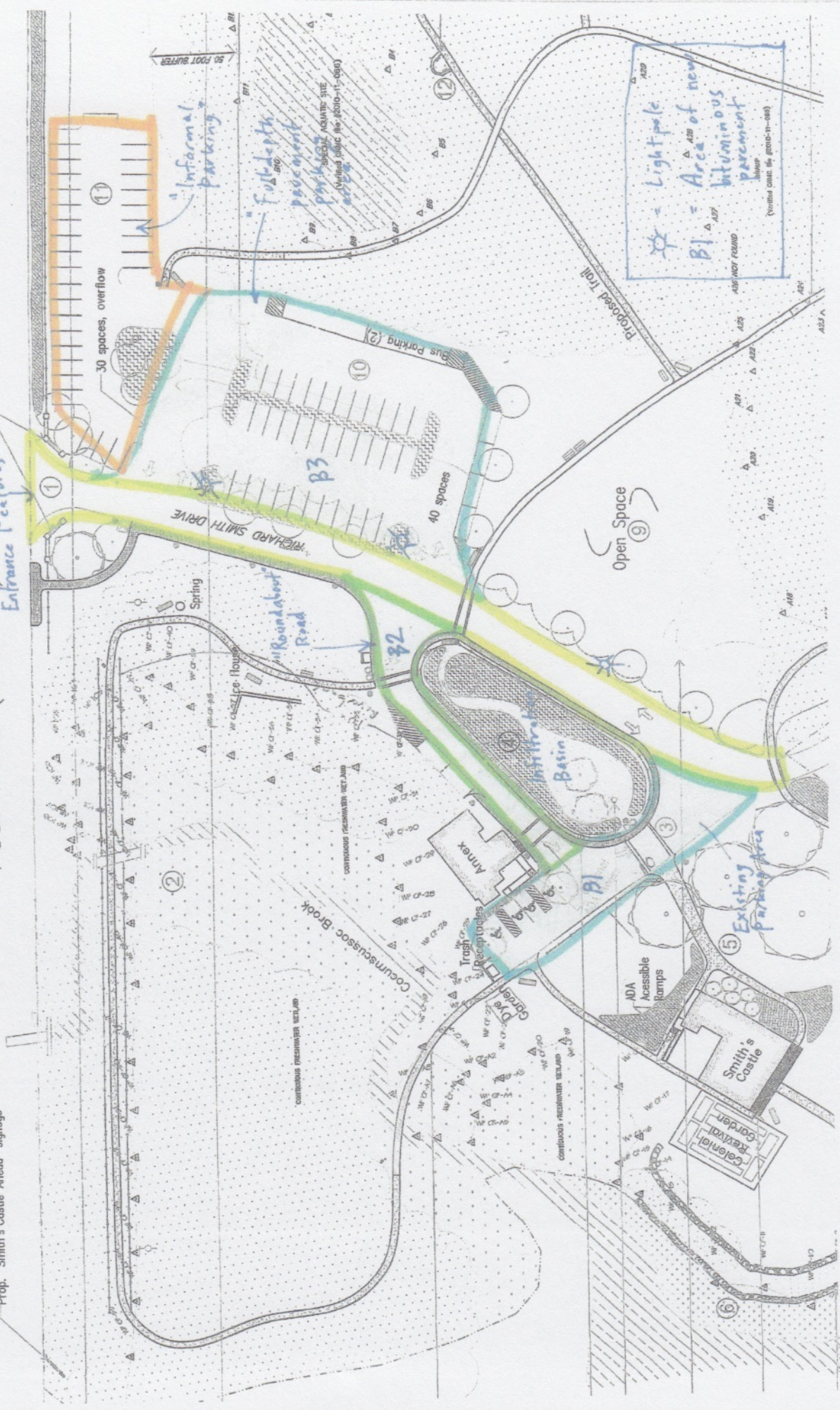
Proposed Trash Can

Checked By:
Will Green

POST ROAD (ROUTE 1) Entrance Features

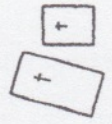
Welcome Signs to Smith's Castle: Historic House

Prop. "Smith's Castle Ahead" signage



TEA 2-021

1000' = 1" = 1000'



RAIL ROAD

ROAD

RICHARD SMITH DRIVE

VIEW

COCUMCUSSOC WAY

ROGER

WILLIAMS

DALE DRIVE

HOPE

POST

SEA

VIEW

WICKFORD COVE

SMITH'S CASTLE
PLAT 139
LOTS 3, 34, 36, 37, 43
55 RICHARD SMITH DRIVE

RAI

