

City of Ellsworth
Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
Friday, December 29, 2006

Proposal Submitted by:

Hancock County Planning Commission
395 State Street
Ellsworth, ME 04605
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hcpc@hcpcme.org www.hcpcme.org

All questions and comments regarding this proposal may be submitted to Jim Fisher,
Senior Planner (jfisher@hcpcme.org)

A. Qualifications and Experience: The firm's qualifications and experience relative to the above task, including specific experience working with bicycle and pedestrian issues and product samples where applicable.

The Hancock County Planning Commission has worked with towns throughout Hancock County and with the Maine Department of Transportation on a variety of projects related to bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. We run websites for several of our projects, including:

Hancock County Planning Commission: www.hcpcme.org/transport.html

- ◆ 2000 Bicycle Pedestrian Plan for Hancock and Washington Counties – organized and staffed by HCPC.
- ◆ East Coast Greenway – helped to design Bucksport/Bangor to Calais section.
- ◆ Penobscot Narrows Project – passenger transportation plan.

Trails Groups

- ◆ Downeast Sunrise Trail: www.sunrisetrail.org – currently staffed by HCPC

Scenic Byways

- ◆ Acadia All American Road: www.acadiabyway.org – HCPC prepared Corridor Management Plan and is actively extending that plan into Trenton.
- ◆ Blackwoods Scenic Byway: www.blackwoodsbyway.org – Wrote Corridor Management Plan and staffs committee.
- ◆ Schoodic National Scenic Byway: www.schoodicbyway.org – Wrote corridor management plan and staffs committee.

Healthy Communities Coalitions

- ◆ Health Hancock: www.healthyhancock.org – HCPC was a founding member and currently co-chairs the coalition.

Additionally, HCPC has assisted towns in preparing successful grant proposals for Safe Routes To Schools (Southwest Harbor), Transportation Enhancement Grants (Winter Harbor), Scenic Byways Grants (Sullivan, Gouldsboro, Winter Harbor, Trenton, Bar Harbor, Franklin, Cherryfield, Weston) and Community Gateways Grants (Sullivan, Hancock, Franklin). HCPC provides technical support to the MDI Bike/Pedestrian Committee.

B. Capacity: Information on the capacity of the firm or individual, including availability of personnel and equipment, financial stability of the firm, and the firm's ability to complete the work by the end date.

HCPC staff has long experience with GIS and currently house computers, ArcGIS software, GPS units and a large format plotter. We prepare a variety of maps for towns throughout Hancock County. Our equipment and staff are available for the time funded through this project. The workplan includes a significant commitment of Ellsworth staff time in order to complete this project within budget.

C. Project Personnel: A listing of the project personnel, including resumes giving relevant work experience, education and qualifications of persons who will perform work on the project.

This project engages HCPC senior planner, Jim Fisher to assist with project scoping, background research, GIS mapping and report preparation. Jim Fisher holds a Bachelor's Degree from Bowdoin College, a Masters Degree in Regional Planning and a PhD from the University of North Carolina. He has served as the transportation planner for the Hancock County Planning Commission for more than six years, and prepared the plans, documents and websites sited above. In addition to Jim's transportation work, he is a founding member of Healthy Hancock and has endeavored to integrate smart growth concepts, like bike-able and walkable communities into Healthy Hancock's vision.

Heather Albert Knopp will be engaged as a contractor on this project to assist in data gathering, group facilitation and report preparation. Heather contracts with a number of healthy communities projects and is leading an effort to create a GIS database for Blue Hill Bay. Heather holds a Bachelor's Degree from the College of the Atlantic.

Resumes for Jim Fisher and Heather Albert Knopp are attached.

D. General Approach: The firm's approach to planning, organizing, and managing the project, including approach to problems solving, data gathering, and communications.

HCPC approaches bicycle and pedestrian planning using a three-pronged strategy. The proposal outlined by the City of Ellsworth matches our basic model:

- 1) looking beyond Ellsworth to identify models for successful bicycle and pedestrian programs,

- 2) drawing on Ellsworth residents, businesses and leaders to provide local perspectives, goals and objectives, and
- 3) utilizing state of the art GIS mapping and database technologies and internet-based communications to create maps and capital investment plans that facilitate decision making and public access to information.

E. Work Plan: Detailed methodology, proposed schedule of activities and time estimates for completing project tasks. In addition, respondent should provide a detailed description of the specific outcomes and deliverables to be provided to the City.

Please find attached to this proposal a work plan that specifies hours to be allocated within each of the five planning elements suggested in the RFP.

Funding limitations will require HCPC to work collaboratively with committee members and Ellsworth's deputy planner in all stages of the process. While our organization can facilitate the process, we will need staff support from Ellsworth in all five tasks, including organizing the Bicycle Pedestrian Committee, conducting policy reviews, identifying models from other jurisdictions, inventory, analysis and report writing.

As we outline in the work plan, our team will facilitate a limited number of committee meetings in order to incorporate background research, inventory and analysis, goals and objectives, mapping and proposed implementation. This work plan is expressed in hours dedicated to each sub-task, and is very tight. Identifying additional resources for this initiative is strongly recommended.

Deliverables include:

- ◆ Formation of a bicycle-pedestrian committee
- ◆ Preparation of baseline GIS infrastructure maps
- ◆ Preparation of maps recommending future infrastructure improvements
- ◆ A final report and public presentation summarizing the process and recommendations of the bicycle pedestrian committee.

F. Other information: Provide any other information that you believe would make the firm's work on behalf of the City superior to that of other firm or information about your firm's specialty or particular skill to perform a specific requested service.

HCPC is currently engaged in a number of related transportation planning projects in and around Ellsworth. We are active participants in the Downeast Sunrise Trail, Ellsworth STAR Transportation center and Acadia Gateway Center programs. Our participation in these projects will permit us to leverage the work that we perform on this plan and gain some efficiencies of scale.

G. Compensation: A statement of the proposed method and rate of compensation, estimated budget for performing project work plan and estimated total project cost*.

See attached budget.

Heather M. Albert-Knopp

P.O. Box 355, Brooklin, ME 04616
207-359-2157, halbertknopp@gwi.net

Recent Work Experience

Self-employed Consultant. Assist non-profit organizations with projects including fundraising, meeting facilitation, project management, writing, program evaluation and reporting, strategic planning, and community organizing. June 2005 to present.

- Areas of focus: Community health, local food systems.
- Selected projects: Coordination of participatory mapping and data gathering for Blue Hill Bay Use Inventory; Facilitation of Ellsworth community forums on transportation, substance use; Editing and publication of "Healthy Peninsula Walks" guide and Health Resource Map; Coordination of Hancock County Farm to School project.
- Clients Include: Healthy Acadia, Healthy Peninsula, College of the Atlantic, Friends of Blue Hill Bay.

Community Coordinator, Healthy Acadia Coalition, Bar Harbor, Maine. Responsible for convening and coordinating participatory community development projects to build healthy communities in the Mount Desert Island region, developing and administering small granting program, and organizational support. Areas of focus: local food systems, bike-able/walk-able communities, and youth empowerment. January 2003 to June 2005.

Baseline Study Coordinator, Union River Watershed Coalition, Bar Harbor, Maine. Temporary position to implement baseline study of the Union River Watershed. Responsibilities included organizing trainings, coordinating volunteers, developing water quality monitoring kits, and creating literature. January to April 2003.

Program Director and Grassroots Organizer, Institute for Social Ecology, Plainfield, Vermont. Coordinating local and regional campaigns in support of sustainable, local food systems and in opposition to corporate control of the food supply and genetics. Responsibilities included: conference/event organizing, education, design of outreach materials, grant writing, and other work to empower grassroots activism. 1999 to 2002.

Education

College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, Maine. Received Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Ecology, June 1999. Final project: "Postcards from a Maine Farm: Exploring the Existing and Potential Roles of Tourism in the Effort to Support Small Farms and Rural Communities." 1997 to 1999.

Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. Studying Spanish, liberal arts. 1994 to 1996.

Other Relevant Experience

Steering Committee Member, Mount Desert Island Tomorrow community planning initiative. Participated on Bicycle/Pedestrian Task Force; Convened Local Food Connections Group, MDI Co-op Group. Spring 2003 to Spring 2005.

Jim Fisher has extensive experience in action-oriented research and development in the United States and other regions of the world. He has published over 30 articles, book chapters and professional papers on topics including economic development, environmental planning and research methods.

EDUCATION: Ph.D. in Regional Planning, University of North Carolina
Master of Regional Planning, University of North Carolina
Bachelor of Arts, Bowdoin College
Additional Studies: Wright State University, Carleton College, University of Poona, India

RESEARCH, PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE:

Senior Planner, Hancock County Planning Commission, Ellsworth, Maine 1999 – present. Working with communities in a variety of planning and development initiatives, particularly related to local infrastructure needs, transportation, sustainable development and health.

Interim Research Director, Market Decision, Inc. South Portland, ME 1999 – Directed a variety of research projects for public sector and private sector customers.

Manager of Research, Central Maine Power/MainePower, Augusta, Maine 1996 – 1998
Lead research manager for public opinion tracking, communications research and electricity deregulation.

Visiting Assistant Professor, Bates College, Lewiston, Maine 1995-1996
Instructed courses in the Sociology Department including Introduction to Sociology, Urban Sociology, Environment and Development and Urban Planning.

Research Director and Assistant Professor, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio 1991 – 1995
Directed research on a \$5 million study of the effectiveness of early intervention and case management for persons seeking substance abuse treatment. Managed a staff of 5 persons in addition to student assistants.

Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio 1989 – 1991
Instructed graduate and undergraduate courses on community planning and health care administration, including Finance and Budgeting, U.S. and International Economic Development Methods, and Quantitative Methods.

USAID Research Consultant, Monrovia, Liberia and Cochabamba, Bolivia 1987, 1988
Conducted research primarily on the impacts of economic conditions on health and habitat in urban and peri-urban communities. Resulted in recommendations for improved services for those living in poverty.

U.S. Fulbright-Hayes Scholar, Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee, Dhaka 1984-1986
Conducted research in rural Bangladesh on the impacts of rural development on economic capacity of locations and human migration. Research culminated in a successful doctoral dissertation.

ESL and Health Outreach, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers Association, Raleigh, NC 1982 – 1984
Instructed English as a Second Language and provided health outreach services to under-served migrant farm workers in eastern North Carolina.

U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer, Ministry of Agriculture, Ambato, Ecuador 1979 - 1981
Worked as in agriculture extension and community organizing in rural Ecuador. Assisted small farmers to optimize production on very small parcels of land, including fruit, grain and vegetable production. Assisted in organizing community activities, school gardens and planning.