



# Arkansas

THE NATURAL STATE®

**DEPARTMENT OF  
PARKS & TOURISM**

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Arkansas.com

History Commission  
501-682-6900 (TDD)  
Ark-ives.com

Human Resources Section  
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Keep Arkansas  
Beautiful Division  
501-682-3507 (TDD)  
epArkansasBeautiful.com

State Parks Division  
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Tourism Division  
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*Ok  
BRS*

October 20, 2013

Mr. Brandon Sharp, Administrator  
Office of Budget  
Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration  
401 DFA Building  
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: Cash Fund Increase; Delta Heritage Trail State Park (DHTSP)

Dear Mr. Sharp:

The Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, State Parks Division, is requesting an increase in our Cash Fund Appropriation for construction of additional hike/bike trail at DHTSP. Our request will comprise continuation of the construction of the subject 87 mile rails project in East Arkansas.

When the trail right-of-way was acquired from Union Pacific Railroad in 1992, 33 miles of rail on the north end of the trail was acquired for potential use by a private excursion trail operator for eco-tours. Crossing the White and Arkansas Rivers through the White River National Refuge and AGFC's Trusten Holder Wildlife Management Area, passengers would experience some of the last of Arkansas's original bottomland hardwoods. With no response to the RFP, the State Parks, Recreation and Travel Commission voted to sell the rail.

In 1992 the rail was acquired for \$600,000 with Federal Highway Administration (FHA) Funds and it sold in 2012 for \$5,773,317. In accordance with FHA regulations, the proceeds from the rail sale must be used on the trail project. Construction plans have been completed to utilize the rail funds for building hike/bike trail on the DHTSP from Arkansas City to the Arkansas River.

Arkansas State Park's construction cash appropriation will need to be increased in order to bid the subject trail construction project. Therefore, I am requesting an increase of \$1,100,000 in Construction Commitment Item 05 in fund NPT0104, Fund Center 986 and Business Area 0900. Our Certification of Income is sufficient to

provide for this appropriation increase and ask that you place the request on the PEER Committee's December 2014 agenda.

Please contact Greg Butts at 682-7743 or Kevin Carr 682-1191, if you have any further questions. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Richard W. Davies  
Executive Director  
Arkansas Department of  
Parks and Tourism

Cc: Richard Weiss  
Greg Butts  
Kristy Hobson  
Cynthia Dunlap  
Kevin Carr

 10/22/14