



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of December 9, 2006**

DATE: November 13, 2006

SUBJECT: Authorization to accept \$7,000 from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources' (VDHR) Cost Share Program to undertake a study of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route in Northern Virginia.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

1. Accept \$7,000 in grant funds from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) under the Cost Share Program to undertake a study of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route in Northern Virginia.
2. Authorize the County Manager to sign the attached Cost Share Grant Agreement.

ISSUE: Should the County accept the VDHR/Cost Share Program award that would use \$1,000 of County funds (101.438200.72303.000.000.0000); have the County collect \$1,000 each from Fairfax, Prince William, Stafford and Spotsylvania Counties and the Cities of Alexandria and Fredericksburg; all to leverage state grant funds to pay to undertake a study of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route in Northern Virginia.

SUMMARY: This year is the 225th anniversary of the Battle of Yorktown. That victory was made possible by the French and American Revolutionary troops who traveled from Rhode Island and New York to Yorktown, Virginia. These troops, commanded by Generals George Washington and Comte de Rochambeau, marched through Northern Virginia on their way to Yorktown. This route has since become known as the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R).

The proposed project is for the study of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route in northern Virginia from Arlington County through Spotsylvania County. Arlington County applied for a Cost Share Grant (Attachment A) from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) on behalf of the following jurisdictions: Arlington County, City of Alexandria, Fairfax County, Prince William County, Stafford County, City of Fredericksburg, and Spotsylvania County. Each of these counties and cities agreed, via email confirmation (Attachment B), to be a party to the Cost Share Grant application and to assist in the matching fund requirements to the sum of \$1,000 each. The proposed grant will be used to pay for a

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: Michael Leventhal, CPHD

professional historian to conduct the necessary research to determine the historic route and places of encampment and to write a study report.

VDHR has awarded the County a \$7,000 Cost Share Grant. Arlington County is to match this grant with \$1,000 of County funds (101.438200.72303.000.000.0000) and \$6,000 of funds from the other 6 named jurisdictions in the grant application to undertake a study of the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route in Northern Virginia. The County match for this grant can be found in the reallocation of funds in the approved FY 07 County budget, from the Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development, Neighborhood Services Division, Historic Preservation Program.

BACKGROUND: The Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) administers the Cost Share Program, which receives these pass-through funds from the State of Virginia. The VDHR mails its notice of the Cost Share Program and grant application form to all of the State's Certified Local Governments in late July (after the County Board's July meeting) and sets the deadline for the completed applications to be returned to VDHR by September 1 (before the County Board meets in September). The County Manager approves of the Cost Share Grant application knowing that once the County receives its notice of acceptance, the County Board will be informed and its approval requested.

This year marks the 225th anniversary of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route, the trail used by French and American Revolutionary Forces as they traveled from Rhode Island and New York to fight the British in Yorktown, Virginia. Kevin Vincent, Chairman of the County's Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board, is also serving this year as the Virginia Coordinator of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route celebration in Virginia. Mr. Vincent had been informed by VDHR that the State wished to underwrite a grant to research and publish a report on the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route as it went through Virginia. The overall route was divided into three sections, with the northern sections containing seven jurisdictions: Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William, Stafford and Spotsylvania counties, as well as the cities of Alexandria and Fredericksburg. The State, rather than seek seven small grant requests for this proposed project, asked Mr. Vincent to approach the County's Historic Preservation Program as the coordinating body for the seven northern jurisdictions and submit a Cost Share Program grant through Arlington County. Mr. Vincent, in coming to the County's Historic Preservation Program, had already secured written (email) assurances from the other six northern jurisdictions to provide \$1,000 matches each as part of the matching grant. The Historic Preservation Program agreed to allocate \$1,000 from its approved FY07 consultant services budget (101.438200.71303.000.000.0000) for this project.

The State recently awarded Arlington a \$7,000 matching grant (Attachment C) for a historian to research and publish a report on the Washington-Rachambeau Revolutionary Route as it went through the seven Northern Virginia jurisdictions. Arlington is the only community to receive more than one of this year's Cost Share Program grants. The other Cost Share Program grant was for \$25,000 to continue with year ten of the Countywide Historic Resources Survey.

DISCUSSION: Because of the State Cost Share Program grant deadlines, the County staff had already submitted the grant application prior to County Board consideration. The application sought a grant of \$7,000. Together with matching funds of \$7,000 -- \$1,000 from Arlington County and \$1,000 each from the City of Alexandria, Fairfax County, Prince William County, Stafford County, City of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County -- these funds would be used to hire a historian to research and publish a report on the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route as it went through the seven Northern Virginia jurisdictions. The County will invoice the other six jurisdictions joining in to fund this grant, and the County will not participate in the awarded Cost Share Program grant should any of the said jurisdictions not contribute their committed \$1,000 shared grant match. This is a one-time grant project.

Therefore, it is recommended that the County Board accept the County Manager's receipt of this VDHR/Cost Share Program grant award and authorize the County Manager to sign the agreement document (Attachment D). If the County Board decides not to ratify the application, it will be withdrawn from consideration.

FISCAL IMPACT: The recommended consultant work is estimated to cost \$14,000, of which the fiscal impact to the County would be only \$1,000. These County funds can be allocated from the approved FY07 budget of the Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development, Neighborhood Services Division, Historic Preservation Program

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Application Request for the 2007 Cost Share Program
- Attachment B: Emails from Fairfax, Prince William, Stafford and Spotsylvania Counties and the City of Fredericksburg on their Commitment of \$1,000 each to this proposed project
- Attachment C: Letter from VDHR on the awarding of the 2007 Cost Share Program grant
- Attachment D: Contract between VDHR and Arlington County to be signed