

Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council Strategic Plan 2021-2023



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Contributors:

WRWC Board of Directors: Laureen Ratti (President), Stephen Bautista (Vice President), Christopher Riely (Treasurer), John Flaherty (Secretary), Eric Army, Ashlie Grilz, Jennifer Lisi, Jennifer Recinos, Zane Silva, Tina Shepard, Mari Anne Snow, Douglas Stephens

WRWC Staff: Alicia Lehrer, Lisa Aurecchia, Liza Baptista, Amanda Blevins, Sara Canuel, Jill Davidson, Jacob Gorke, Donny Green, Eric Larson, Erik Talley



WRWC Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission: Create positive environmental, social and economic change by revitalizing the Woonasquatucket River, its Greenway, and its communities.

Vision: A clean Woonasquatucket River and thriving Greenway for all to lead healthy lives.

Values:

- Tenacious Innovation: We overcome constraints with boldness, resourcefulness, and an entrepreneurial spirit, and we hope for a better future. We're scrappy, and we get things done.
- Community Stewardship: We work toward establishing intergenerational habits of stewardship for our natural and human resources, elevating the community to continue our work.
- Human/Nature: We believe placemaking happens in the interconnection between humanity and nature.
- We have a holistic vision for community flourishing and sustainability.
- Accessible Joy: We believe the best reward is witnessing the joy we bring to people.

Notes

Staff and board members will assess progress toward the goals listed on this 3-year strategic at 6-month intervals. This strategic plan is adaptive and will be revised as needed to reflect changing circumstances, new opportunities, and unexpected challenges.

Abbreviations

ED=Executive Director

DOP=Director of Programs

EdD=Education Director

GM=Greenway Manager

BPD=Bike Program Director

DD=Development Director

RD=Recreation Director



BL=Bilingual Leadership

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PROGRAM GOALS AND STRATEGIES

Program Goal #1: Connect Greenway space from Cricket Field & beyond through downtown Providence

	Strategy	KPI(s)	Leadership	Value(s)	Cost
1.	Make progress on extending the Greenway's separated multi-use trail through Johnston to Route 44	Secure alignment through Superfund process FY22 Q4	ED DOP	Human/Nature	
		Secure ownership/easement of Greenway land FY21 Q4			
		Establish funding sources for design and construction FY23 Q4			
2.	Continue building relationship with Johnston town government	Annual update process with Mayor, planning, parks, council and DPW	DOP	Human/Nature	
3.	Make connection between partners: Town of Johnston, North Providence, City of Providence, RIDOT, Town of Smithfield, North Smithfield etc.	A plan with a timeline to extend the Greenway through Johnston & Beyond FY22 Q4	ED DOP	Human/Nature	
4.	Connect Greenway from Route 44 to Cricket Field & Beyond	Secure agreement from property owners for use of land FY21 Q4	DOP	Human/Nature	
		Agreement from Smithfield & North Smithfield on alignment and agreement FY 23 Q4	ED		
		Establish funding sources for design and construction FY23 Q4			
5.	Complete Greenway's separated trail expansion from Eagle Square to Mall	Advocate for Green Bond FY 21 Q1	ED DOP	Human/Nature	



	including pocket parks, canoe/kayak launches, art, Green Infrastructure, etc.	Continue participation with design team			
		Establish funding for additional pieces where there are funding gaps			
6.	Complete Greenway's separated trail expansion through Gotham Greens	Advocate for Green Bond FY 21 Q1 Continue participation with design team Establish funding sources to	ED DOP GM	Human/Nature	
		complete desired project outcome			
7.	Continue to advocate for Greenway's separated trail connection from Gotham Greens through Donigian Park	Advocate for Green Bond FY 21 Q1 Establish alignment and easements FY23 Q4	ED DOP	Human/Nature	
8.	Continue to advocate for Greenway's separated trail expansion through Contech property to Riverside Park	Advocate for Green Bond FY 21 Q1 Establish alignment and easements FY23 Q4	ED DOP	Human/Nature	
9.	Improve Greenway through additional amenities and Green Infrastructure connections with the river a. Establish outdoor classrooms on the river at Manton Dam	Survey additional stormwater solutions throughout entire Greenway FY 2021 Q4 and ongoing Secure long-term DOT stormwater funding FY2023 Q4	DOP ED	Human/Nature	
		Outdoor classroom FY2022 Q4			



10. Continue planning and discussion of	Continue discussion with parks,	DOP	Human/Nature	
water park at Riverside Park	ongoing			
	Secure funding FY2023 Q4			
11. Complete Woonasquatucket Adventure	Participate in planning group	DOP	Human/Nature	
Park Phase II	ongoing			
12. Ongoing participation in planning,	Coordinate w/ parks departments &	DOP	Human/Nature	
establishing and maintaining park &	RIDOT ongoing	GM		
Greenway amenities (e.g. play structures,				
benches, recycling, additional	Secure Funding (perhaps from			
canoe/kayak launches etc.)	naming rights)			

Program Goal #2: Connect community members to Greenway, Watershed, and each other

	Strategy	KPI(s)	Leadership	Value(s)	Cost
1.	Develop Watershed-wide education	Plan finalized FY21 Q3	EdD	Community	
	strategy		ED	Stewardship	
			DOP		
				Accessible	
				Joy	
2.	Build community stewardship and use of	Host at least 1 community meeting	EdD	Community	
	Greenway in Johnston through education,	to collect input for Flood Resilience	RD	Stewardship	
	recreation, and/or bike programming	Study	BPD		
				Accessible	
		Establish programming at Johnston		Joy	
		Public Schools FY21 Q3 (and/or out-			
		of-school education options)			
		Host at least 2 recreation programs annually			



		Host an annual cleanup/beautification event			
Gree educ	d community stewardship and use of enway in North Providence through cation, recreation, and/or bike ramming	Continue afterschool Kids Klub programming for 25 participants annually. Establish programming at North Providence Public Schools FY21 Q3. Host at least 1 recreation program annually. Add board member FY 21 Q4. Host at least 1 community meeting to collect input for Flood Resilience Study.	EdD ED DOP RD BPD	Community Stewardship	
		Establish canoe launch at Adams Lane along the Woonasquatucket FY22 Q4. Host an annual cleanup/beautification event.			
Wate educ	d community stewardship and use of ershed in Smithfield through ration, recreation, and/or bike ramming	Continue partnering with Smithfield planning and town manager's office on developing Flood Resilience Study Establish programming at Smithfield Public Schools FY21 Q1 (and/or out-of-school education options)	EdD ED DOP RD BPD	Community Stewardship Accessible Joy	



		1	1	T T
		Host at least 4 recreation programs annually		
		Add board member FY22 Q4		
		Host at least 1 community meeting to collect input for Flood Resilience Study		
		Host an annual cleanup/beautification event		
		Explore working with community and RIDOT to maintain Smithfield GI.		
5.	Build community stewardship and use of Watershed in North Smithfield through education, recreation, and/or bike	Host at least 1 community meeting to collect input for Flood Resilience Study	EdD ED DOP	Community Stewardship
	programming	,	RD	Accessible
		Continue in school (bike) and out-of- school (Kids Klub) programming interest and options FY21 Q4	BPD	Joy
		Host an annual cleanup/beautification event		
6.	Build community stewardship and use of	Host at least 1 community meeting	EdD	Community
	Watershed in Glocester through	to collect input for Flood Resilience	ED	Stewardship
	education, recreation, and/or bike	Study	DOP	
	programming		RD	Accessible
		Host at least 1 recreation program annually	BPD	Joy



		1	1	
	Add board member.			
	Explore in school and out-of-school			
	programming interest and options.			
	Host an annual			
	cleanup/beautification event			
7. Build community stewardship and use of	Continue partnering with City of	EdD	Community	
Watershed in Providence through	Providence on developing Flood	ED	Stewardship	
education, recreation, and/or bike	Resilience Study	DOP	Accessible	
programming	Establish naming rights program	RD BPD	Joy	
	FY21 Q1.		304	
	Continue offering K-12 educational			
	programs (in school and/or out-of-			
	school education options).			
	Continue offering in school,			
	afterschool, and vacation bike			
	programming for 300 young people			
	annually.			
	Host at least 1 community meeting			
	to collect input for Flood Resilience			
	Study.			
	Host weekly and other recreational			
	programs including many at no cost.			



	Host several annual cleanup/beautification events.		
8. More representation of community members from all areas of the Greenway in WRWC activities	Programming materials and signage reflect preferred languages within the Watershed FY 21 and FY 22.	Staff and board	Community Stewardship
	Native American land and river acknowledgment FY 21 and FY 22.		Accessible Joy
Engage volunteers throughout the Watershed	Create Clean Days and other programming to engage at least 500 community volunteers annually.	GM	Community Stewardship
10. Add watershed amenities to connect people to river and watershed (e.g. signage, canoe/kayak launches, trail improvements, etc.).	2 new canoe/kayak launches FY23 Q4. Greenway signage campaign	GM DOP	
	substantially installed by FY23 Q4. Keep river navigable where possible (e.g. from Manton Fishway to Riverside, Riverside to downtown, advocate for public access at Lyman Pond).		

Program Goal #3: Care for Greenway parks, spaces, and river health

Strategy	KPI(s)	Leadership	Value(s)	Cost
1. Clearly define the role WRWC plays in	Develop MOUs on join infrastructure	DOP	Human/Na	
caring for these spaces.	projects with municipal partners	GM	ture	
	(PVP, Manton) FY 21 Q2			



		Meet w/ Leo Perotta at PVD DPW FY21 Q1		
2.	Ensure capacity to be long-term caretakers for Greenway space a. Develop parks friends programs b. Continue annual workforce development River Ranger training program recruiting youth from communities surrounding Greenway	Establish defined operating costs by FY2021 Q3 Establish 1 park friends group annually with 3 by FY 2023 Q4 3 new neighborhood Junior Rangers annually (up to 10 summer if funding opportunity available)	Greenway Team	Human/Na ture
3.	Establish permanent location for River Ranger headquarters	Refer to Administrative Goal 4	ED	Human/Na ture
4.	Establish Greenway fund through every means possible (e.g. PRA, TIF, enterprise, unrestricted fundraising, endowment, development of municipal contracts throughout watershed, Centredale Superfund maintenance)	Set aside and raise \$100K for GW FY21 Q4 Set aside and raise \$200K for GW FY 22 Q4 Set aside and raise \$300K for GW FY 23 Q4		

Program Goal #4: Grow community connection and engagement on climate resilience

Strategy	KPI(s)	Leadership	Value(s)	Cost
1. Engage homeowners in Elmhurst and	100 homeowners surveyed in each	Outreach	Community	
Smith Hill in home climate resilience	neighborhood FY22	BL	Stewardship	
	6 retrofits in each neighborhood			
	FY22			



			Greenway Team	
2.	Participate in Olneyville Advisory Board or group of citizens to offer feedback on ongoing and future projects	One board member participates in Olneyville Advisory Board	Jenn Recinos	Community Stewardship
3.	Relationship building and collaboration with community-based organizations	Continued participation in Olneyville Collaborative/CP HEZ, Valley Visioning, Providence Resiliency Partnership, Racial and Environmental Justice Committee, RI Green Infrastructure Coalition and others as opportunities arise	Outreach BL Staff	Community Stewardship
4.	Relationship building and collaboration with local business community	Continue offering Clean Day and other volunteer opportunities for involvement Help re-establish the Kinsley/Promenade business association FY 23 Q4	GM DD	Community Stewardship
5.	Invite new stakeholders to the table to join conversations	Watershed-wide participation in Flood Resilience Study per KPIs above Fund stakeholder coordination at \$50K/year	Outreach EdD BL	Community Stewardship
6.	Create inclusive, meaningful programming that fairly compensates participants and builds relationships within 02908 and 02909 area	At least 15 community members participate in New Voices program FY21 Q4 Community members take on meaningful leadership roles in	EdD Outreach BL	Community Stewardship



WRWC programs such as		
establishing park friends groups and		
directing flood resilience funding		
FY22 Q4		

Program Goal #5: Improve diversity, access, and inclusion to youth programs and job training

	Strategy	KPI(s)	Timeline	Value(s)	Cost
1.	More access to virtual interactive	Host 3 programs per year with video	BPD	Community	
	education opportunities for adults and youth	and other online engagement	EdD	Stewardship	
	•	Link to and promote additional		Accessible	
		program opportunities as they arise		Joy	
		Offer bilingual options and written translations			
2.	Offer culturally rooted programming such	Develop at least 1 culturally relevant	Outreach	Community	
	as acknowledging the native land stewards	program opportunity with offer		Stewardship	
	of the past, e.g. Storytelling with Loren	bilingual options and written			
	Spears becomes a program. Cassius Spears	translations FY22 and onward		Accessible	
	has presentation about Native American			Joy	
	life along the Woonasquatucket. Dugout				
	canoe build with our Native American				
	partners. Include looking at what the				
	Native American community is doing now				
	and raising up those voices. Video of John				
	McNiff doing history of Woonasquatucket,				
	dressing the part for each one.				
3.	Continue River Ranger job training	3 participants in FY21, future	GM	Community	
	program with diverse opportunities	participant #s TBD		Stewardship	



4. Develop or work with partners to establish	Develop budget for program FY 21	BPD	Community	
bike mechanic for teens in 02908/02909	Q4		Stewardship	
	Establish sources of annual funds for			
	program FY 22 Q1			
	10 participants FY22			
	10+ participants FY 23 and beyond			



ADMINISTRATIVE GOALS AND STRATEGIES

Administrative Goal #1: Expand organization brand to create greater community awareness and evaluate/change organization's name.

Strategy	KPI(s)	Leadership	Value(s)	Cost
1. Decide organization name and adopt it	— Decide new name by end of FY2021	DD	Tenacious	
one voice, one look	Q4	Board	Innovation	
 a. Clarify logo and branding 		Marketing		
elements—resolve competition	Develop logo, branding FY2022 Q1	Expertise and		
between organizational brands		Development		
(WRWC and WRG)	Complete internal training FY2022	Committee		
b. Develop communication strate	gy Q2	Lisa		
to share and reinforce change				
c. External input (e.g. focus group	•			
	FY2022			
2. Collateral transition (letterhead, websi	te, Complete by end of FY22	BL	Tenacious	
signage, etc.)		Staff and	Innovation	
		board		
3. Expand brand/communications (maybe				
separate section)	marketing, social media, etc.			
	Website analytics			

Administrative Goal #2: Increase staff capacity to achieve mission

Strategy	KPI(s)	Leads	Value(s)	Cost
1. Hire staff representative of the Providence	Host 2 Spanish-only events annually	BL	Tenacious	
Woonasquatucket Community			Innovation	



	 a. Translation of materials in spaces meet the needs of the community b. Bilingual staff members at 	Paid Ad on Spanish Radio for jobs and events		
	community events c. Adjustments to job posting and application process to increase access and encourage neighbors to	Staff training on learning more about how to make this happen		
2.	apply Add 4 FTEs to River Ranger team for season from March to end of November: Leadership, Stormwater/GI Installation & Maintenance, Greenway Maintenance, Outreach and Homeowner Retrofit, Enterprise	Staff hired by FY21 Q2	GM	Tenacious Innovation
3.	Add ½ FTE in Education: Trainee under EdD to help take on Ed load and provide long term continuity	Staff hired by FY21 Q1	EdD	Tenacious Innovation
4.	Add ½ FTE in Project Management: Assistant for Lisa as we take on more projects	Staff hired by FY21 Q3	DoP	Tenacious Innovation
5.	Add ½ FTE Graphic Design	Staff hired by FY21 Q1	DoP	Tenacious Innovation
6.	Add ½ FTE Landscape Design	Staff hired by FY21 Q3	DoP	Tenacious Innovation
7.	Add ½ FTE in Bilingual Community Programs Director	Staff hired by FY21 Q1	ED	Tenacious Innovation
8.	Add ½ FTE Outreach Capacity	Staff hired by FY21 Q3	ED	Tenacious Innovation
9.	Add on-call Engineering Capacity	Staff hired by FY21 Q2	DoP	Tenacious Innovation



10. Add development paid intern	Staff hired by FY21 Q1	DD	Tenacious
			Innovation
11. Add Development Associate	Staff hired by FY22 Q1	DD	Tenacious
			Innovation
12. Bolster Greenway team: increase in River	Ongoing Staff Development	GM	Tenacious
Rangers staff and expertise within			Innovation
Greenway Team and for whole staff to	Twice/year – Greenway Team trains		
learn from Greenway Team.	staff		
a. Continuing education for staff (e.g.			
pruning, invasive plant			
management, tree ID, etc.)			

Administrative Goal #3: Increase Board expectations and capacity

Strategy	KPI(s)	Leadership	Value(s)	Cost
 Increase and assure Board Give/Get 	100% board participation annually	Development	Tenacious	
contributions		Committee	Innovation	
a. Monitor, support, and report	100% at \$ goal annually			
Give/Get \$2,500 minimum				
b. Increase Give/Get to a minimum of	Staff accountability via events,			
\$5,000+ in FY22	joining donor calls, etc.			
c. Staff will create accountability to				
board and support board via board	Item on agenda every board			
events, joining donor calls, etc.	meeting			
2. Clarify board participation expectations	Onboarding process and package	Governance	Tenacious	
a. Design and implement a formal	done by FY2021 Q2	Committee	Innovation	
onboarding process (this will have				
to be built as it doesn't exist at the	Board members sign statement			
moment)	annually at Q1 meeting that they			
b. Formalize Board membership	acknowledge Board member			
expectations: Attendance,	expectations FY2022 onward			



Give/Get, Conflict of interest,				
Officer Terms, Committee	FY 21 Q1 and ongoing			
Activities	Governance Committee to review			
	bylaws to present Board member			
	expectations for Board Review/Vote			
	end of Q2			
3. Increase board capacity	Complete needs analysis by FY21Q1	Governance	Tenacious	
a. Revise Board needs analysis:	and review annually	Committee	Innovation	
assessment of Board member				
profiles/skills most needed to be	Board membership at 15 by FY2022			
reviewed (e.g. real estate	Q4			
development, wealth, accounting,				
gov't relations, education,	Advisory council in place by FY2021			
racial/gender diversity and	Q2			
geography, including Gloucester,				
Smithfield, N. Prov.)				
b. Increase Board capacity in both #				
and matching to needs analysis				
c. Through nominating process,				
increase board membership to 15				
over next 2 years				
d. Implement advisory council				
e. Get staff input on what is board				
support is needed for programs				

Administrative Goal #4: Upgrade physical plant

Strategy	KPI(s)	Leadership	Value(s)	Cost
 Conduct needs assessment: office space, 	Complete needs assessment/massing	Staff	Tenacious	
River Ranger workspace, storage space,	plan/financial implications by FY2021	directors	Innovation	
educational/meeting space	Q2			



			and board expertise		
1	Find Rangers heated place to work until we have a new site, find locations to store equipment & rangers at same time if possible	FY2021 Q3	DoP GM	Tenacious Innovation	
1	Implement and complete capital campaign to meet needs of space – to capitalize space expenses	Campaign complete by FY2023 Q4	DD	Tenacious Innovation	

Administrative Goal #5: Build long-term success for staff retention

	Strategy	KPI(s)	Leadership	Value(s)	Cost
1.	Establish semiannual reviews and	Establish Pay Scale and Dates for	DoP	Tenacious	Cost
	compensation adjustments for River	Reviews FY 2021 Q2	GM	Innovation	
	Rangers				
	 a. Refine adaptive pay scale 	Reviews completed ongoing semi-			
	b. Establish growth incentives for	annually			
	longevity				
		Compensation adjusted according			
		to pay scale			
2.	Conduct annual employee reviews to	Reviews completed	ED and staff	Tenacious	Cost
	assess performance, concerns, and the		directors	Innovation	
	possibility of salary increases				
3.	Monitor salaries according to industry	Annual TREC nonprofit salary	ED and	Tenacious	Cost
	standards and local cost of living	review	Executive/Finance	Innovation	
			Committee		



4.	Improve quality of Ranger work experience a. Lease heated facility with running water for ranger work, storage, and tool maintenance. (20' x 30' minimum size) b. Improve water access for filling water tanks, e.g. Hydrometer/Backflow preventer for hydrant hookup c. Ranger coordination with staff during the first staff meeting each month	Include in massing plan in Administrative Goal #3 Secure water access by FY 2021 Q2 Staff meeting Ranger focus FY2021 Q1	ED DOP GM	Tenacious Innovation	Cost
5.	Provide staff tools for self-assessment on a semi-annual basis.	Develop and assure that self- assessment forms are available for each staff member FY 21 Q4.	ED and staff directors	Tenacious Innovation	Cost
6.	As we take on new projects, verify adequate staffing levels, e.g. River Rangers, HR, grant writing, etc.	Ongoing	Staff directors	Tenacious Innovation	Cost
7.	River Ranger hiring takes place every spring from the month of February to April to establish seasonal workforce and long-term employees	FY2021 Q1 and ongoing	GM	Tenacious Innovation	Cost



FISCAL GOALS AND STRATEGIES

Fiscal Goal #1: Diversify organization revenue and create sustainable funding base

Strategy	KPI(s)	Leadership	Value(s)	Cost
1. Raise \$600,000 in unrestricted funding	FY 2021 \$325,000 Unrestricted	ED	Tenacious	
annually: \$400,000 to cover	FY 2022 \$450,000 Unrestricted	DD	Innovation	
Woonasquatucket River Greenway	FY 2023 \$600,000 Unrestricted	Board		
stewardship. \$200,000 to cover other				
operating costs of WRWC.	FY 2021 & Ongoing: Clarify and			
 a. Leverage existing networks 	communicate need for unrestricted			
b. Refine understanding of donors and	funds			
their journey (donor map)				
c. Implement naming rights program	Naming rights PVD MOU in place			
d. Design new materials for corporate	FY2021 Q1			
donor outreach include naming				
rights	Naming rights MOUs in place with			
e. Increase multi-year investments in	other Watershed communities FY			
order to create sustainability of	2023			
support				
f. Increase major gift prospects and	Corporate donor materials revised			
donors	FY2021 Q1			
g. Increase corporate partners				
h. Develop and implement a legacy	Ongoing Starting FY 2021: Report			
giving program	funds raised and other development			
i. Ensure ongoing donor stewardship	KPIs monthly			
j. Pursue grant opportunities for				
unrestricted and Greenway	Ongoing Starting FY 2021: Staff:			
stewardship funds	average 10 donor meetings per			
k. Pursue government funding to	month			
support ongoing Greenway				
stewardship				



I. Explore Promenade Business Association to support Greenway stewardship	Ongoing Starting FY 2021: Board: Each board member engages in at least 2 donor meetings per year Secure at least 5 additional multi-year gifts FY 2021 Q4 Secure at least 8 additional multi-year gifts FY 2022 Q4 Secure at least 15 additional multi-year gifts FY 2023 Q4 Have 40% percent of a future year's goal pledged on day 1 of fiscal year FY21 20%			
	FY22 30% FY23 40%			
Increase earned income: identify and codify services for which we can charge a. Ranger Enterprise: Maintain spaces adjacent to the Greenway b. Stormwater Enterprise: Become goto for sustainable retrofits within Woonasquatucket Watershed	10% Ranger budget by 2023 Q4 Plan to pay ourselves for capital project management or implementation just as consultants do – We are our own consultant	ED DOP GM EdD BPD	Tenacious Innovation	
Establish Greenway fund through every means possible (e.g. PRA, TIF, enterprise, unrestricted fundraising, endowment, development of municipal contracts	Set aside and raise \$100K for GW FY21 Q4			



throughout watershed, grants, Centredale Superfund maintenance)	Set aside and raise \$200K for GW FY 22 Q4		
	Set aside and raise \$300K for GW FY 23 Q4		

Fiscal Goal #2: Secure funding for space that houses all of our functions

Strategy	KPI(s)	Leadership	Value(s)	Cost
1. Capital campaign to meet needs of space	Campaign complete by FY2023 Q4	DD	Tenacious	
			Innovation	

Fiscal Goal #3: Maintain funding for programs as established in program goals

	Strategy	KPI(s)	Leadership	Value(s)	Cost
1.	Secure sustainable government funding:		ED	Tenacious	
	establish funding stream for service from State of RI/municipalities			Innovation	
2.	Improve internal administrative structure	Complete by FY2022 Q4	FD	Tenacious	
	that captures overhead to recover central			Innovation	
	office expenses on pass through funds.	FY2021 Q4 Develop a Federal			
	Assure that all new funding sources	Indirect Cost Rate so that it can be			
	contribute to overhead costs.	applied to all federal grants			
3.	Increase perceived credibility to increase	Surveys piloted by FY2021 Q4	Staff	Tenacious	
	perceived reputation and value in order to		directors	Innovation	
	receive philanthropic and government	Survey process implemented FY2022			
	support	Q4			
	a. Surveys with trusted users (RIDOT,				
	greenway users, etc.)				



b. Establish and report program area metrics	Program area metrics piloted by FY 2021 Q4			
	Program area metrics refined and measured at least annually by FY 2022 Q4			
Pursue grant and fee for service funding opportunities to support program goals	Program costs and overhead covered	ED	Tenacious Innovation	