

“The strength of the MPNHA lies in the network of partnerships it has developed among heritage districts, counties, cities, and towns of the Area. Building from the grassroots up, the partners have been able, in a multitude of ways, to honor and highlight the culture the area’s early pioneers left behind.”

- MPNHA Executive Director Monte Bona as quoted in nomination for Utah Best of State Award, 2017.

MPNHA Management And Partner Cooperation

The Utah Heritage Highway 89 Alliance is the coordinating entity of the MPNHA. It has a board of directors that consists of two members from each of the six counties. A representative from the Mormon Pioneer Heritage Institute, an organization based at a college within the Heritage Area, serves as an at-large member. The city of Mt. Pleasant serves as fiscal agent and provides office space.

The strength of the MPNHA lies in the network of partnerships it has developed among the districts, counties, communities and community-based organizations in the area. Working together, the partners have been able to leverage the MPNHA’s limited funds to provide seed money for projects throughout the corridor.

While the MPNHA brings together a multitude of communities and community organizations under one umbrella to achieve a set of common goals, the MPNHA has always operated in support of those entities’ right to set their own priorities and to define their place within the MPNHA framework.

Notably, under the legislation that established the MPNHA, every federal dollar given to local projects by the MPNHA must be matched by a local dollar. But in the case of MPNHA-supported projects, the match has actually been in the range of 20 local dollars for every federal dollar.

In the 10 years since Congress established the MPNHA, the Heritage Area has received \$2.2 million in federal funds. Using these funds as seed money, it has supported local projects valued at \$44.3 million. While the MPNHA contribution, in many instances, appears to be small, the projects would not have been possible without MPNHA support.

In summary, the MPNHA has proven to be a good steward of public money and an organization well worth the federal government’s investment.

