



## *A Resource for Businesses along the Great Allegheny Passage*

The Progress Fund • 425 West Pittsburgh Street • Greensburg, PA 15601  
(724) 216-9160 • [www.trailtowns.org](http://www.trailtowns.org)

### **Meyersdale Business Opportunities As of December 2011**

The Trail Town Program® aims to identify trail user needs and to fill service gaps in trail communities by providing help in the form of market information, technical assistance, or financing to existing and potential businesses. This document identifies existing conditions related to trail services and what we see as opportunities. Those considering either an expansion or a new business should conduct their own market research and complete a business plan.

#### **Existing Trail-Serving Businesses**

##### **Lodging:**

- One B&B and one guest house are located near the trail head.
- One guest house is located in town.
- Two motels are near the downtown area.
- A hotel is available in town with both hostel and suite-style accommodations.

##### **Food and Drink:**

- The town has a wide variety of eateries available to the hungry trail user. One coffee shop, three cafes, one ice cream shop, one steakhouse, one bar/restaurant, and several pizza shops.

##### **Retail:**

- An antique shop is available off of the main intersection of town.
- A Sheetz convenience store is located in town and is bike-friendly.
- There is a drug store and a dollar store to grab any quick need items.

#### **Potential Opportunities**

- **Retail:**
  - The need for a **full service bike shop** exists. There are no full service shops in Meyersdale or Frostburg, a very scenic and traveled section of the trail.
- **Food and Drink:**
  - Trail users would likely frequent an eatery that had outdoor seating. Fresh and healthy menu items that include vegetarian options; packed lunches for trail-side consumption; and locally grown and raised food items would be of particular interest. The **farm-to-table** movement provides tremendous potential along the GAP. Another extreme of informal but specialized foods might be a gourmet burger, hot dog, or ice cream shop, or even a **bike- or trail-themed** café similar to The Trailside in West Newton, Over-the-Bar Bicycle Café in Pittsburgh, or the Purple Fiddle in Thomas, WV (Purple Fiddle incorporates local foods, live music, and an attached hostel property).
  - There is one **coffee shop** in Meyersdale. The owners are looking to retire soon.

- A grocery store similar to Trader Joes may be a good business opportunity in town.
- There are no stand-alone **candy shops or bakeries** (although both are carried at other locations).
- Many restaurants are closed in the evenings and/or have limited hours. There is an opportunity for restaurants that are open during evenings and nights throughout the week.

*Meyersdale is located just 11 miles from Mt. Davis, the highest point in Pennsylvania, and 6 trail miles from the Eastern Continental Divide. For a listing of available properties visit <http://trailtowns.org/available-properties.aspx>.*



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### Desired services and spending by type along the Great Allegheny Passage

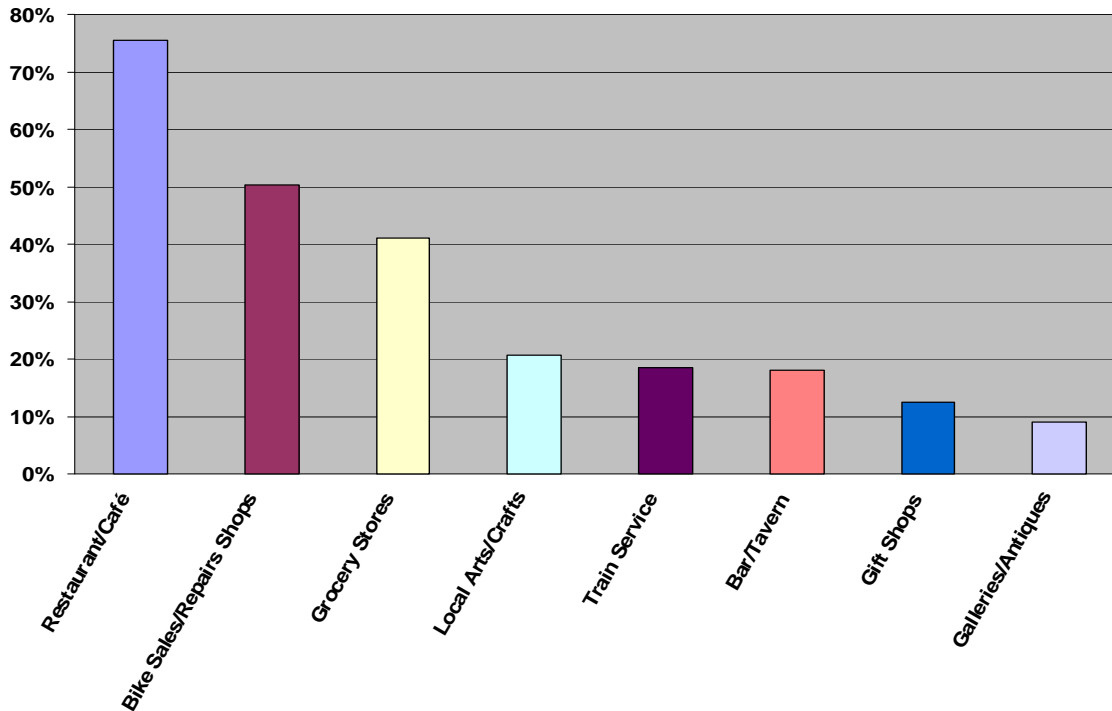
The most desired services as identified by 266 trail users during a 2006 intercept survey are depicted in the graph below. While this graph represents the most desired services, a 2008 survey revealed that the services on which trail users *spend the most* are (in order):

- Lodging (\$64 person / day)
- Transportation and Shuttling (\$51)
- Clothing (\$22)
- Daily Equipment Rental (\$21)
- Restaurants (\$20)

Less than \$15 on average is spent daily on each of the following:

- Souvenirs
- Candy and Snacks
- Beverages
- Ice cream

**Table 3.1**  
**Services Wanted**



*The Trail Town Program® is an initiative of The Progress Fund.  
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