

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS/ FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

December 9, 2024
County of Bucks
1260 Almshouse Road Neshaminy Manor Center
Doylestown, PA 18901
215.345.3845

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the County of Bucks

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about December 27, 2024, the County of Bucks will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to release federal Economic Development Initiative/Community Project Funds under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-42) (the FY2024 Act) and the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-47) (the Further FY2024 Act) to undertake a project known as Upper Bucks Rail Trail. The proposed project includes a trail that would cross Walnut Bank Farm Road in two locations and will utilize high-visibility crosswalks to ensure user safety. The proposed project location includes four tax map parcels, including 36-17-33-2-41, 36-22-233, 36-22-68 and 36-22-181. The trail extension would begin at Heller Road at Walnut Bank Farm Road in Richland Township and parallel Walnut Bank Farm Road before turning into township-owned property before connecting with an existing trail along Walnut Bank Farm Road. The next segment will connect to the existing trail and parallel Walnut Bank Farm and will terminate at the existing trail at a new crosswalk across Walnut Bank Farm Road. Proposed HUD CPF funding in the amount of \$1,770,000. Estimated total project cost: \$1,770,000

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The County of Bucks has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the County of Bucks Planning Commission Office 1260 Almshouse Road, Neshaminy Manor Center Doylestown, PA 18901 where the ERR may be examined or copied weekdays 9 A.M to 4 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the County of Bucks Planning Commission. All comments received by December 26, 2024, will be considered by the County of Bucks prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The County of Bucks certifies to the Department of Housing and Urban Development that Margaret McKevitt, in her capacity as Chief Operating Officer, to enforce responsibilities in relation to the

environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Bucks County Planning Commission to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

Department of Housing and Urban Development will accept objections to its release of funds and the County of Bucks certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the County of Bucks; (b) the County of Bucks has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Department of Housing and Urban Development administration office at CPDRROFPHI@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Margaret McKevitt, Certifying Officer, County of Bucks