

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

April 23, 2026
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 **May 26, 2026**, 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 Newtown Rail Trail. The proposed project includes the construction of a 1.8-mile extension of the Newtown Rail Trail into Northampton Township. The project includes five tax map parcels, including 48-28-8-1, 31-21-4, 31-15-78, 31-15-79 and 31-15-85. The trail extension would begin at Bristol Road and continue into Northampton Township along the former Fox Chase-Newtown SEPTA rail line corridor and will terminate inside the County-owned Churchville Nature Center. The first segment of the trail located at Bristol Road to Bustleton Pike (0.32 miles) would begin on the south side of Bristol Road, approximately 100 feet northwest of its intersection with Churchville Road, where the trail currently ends. Upon reaching this signalized intersection, the trail would cross Bristol Road and continue for 0.32 miles within the SEPTA-owned corridor of the former Fox Chase-Newtown line, until reaching Bustleton Pike. This segment of the trail would pass through a residential area in the Churchville Historic District and run adjacent to the Churchville Train Station, which would serve as a trail head. The second segment starting at Bustleton Pike to Churchville Nature Center Connector Trail (1.14 miles) would run 1.1 miles within the SEPTA-owned right-of-way, which is bordered by Elm Avenue to the north, and privately held lands to the south. Approximately 1,200 feet after crossing the Churchville Reservoir, as the trail approaches Aqua Drive to the north and homes along West Patricia Drive, a connection will be made into the Churchville Nature Center, near the intersection of Elm Avenue and Aqua Drive. The third segment starting from Newtown Rail Trail to Churchville Nature Center (0.3 miles) will consist of a 0.3-mile trail in the Churchville Nature Center complex and run behind 11 homes located along West Patricia Drive. After crossing into the county-owned Churchville Nature Center property, the trail will continue via a combination of a new crushed stone trail and an existing asphalt trail.

Proposed HUD CPF funding in the amount of \$1,000,000
Estimated total project cost: \$2,700,000

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) file at the County of Bucks Planning Commission Office at 1260 Almshouse Road, Neshaminy Manor Center Doylestown, PA 18901 where the ERR may be examined or copied on weekdays 9 A.M to 4 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR or FONSI. Comments will be accepted during a Comment Period running from **April 23, 2026 through May 26, 2026** (the “Comment Period”). Written comments may be emailed to Christian Regosch (cpregosch@buckscounty.org) any time during the Comment Period, or delivered to the Bucks County Planning Commission, 1260 Almshouse Road, Doylestown, PA 18901, weekdays from 9 AM to 4 PM, before the close of the Comment Period. All comments received by **May 26, 2026**, 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.

This notice is issued in accordance with applicable HUD regulations. The Bucks County Planning Commission does not discriminate based on disability. If you need translation services or reasonable disability accommodations related to reading, accessing, and/or providing comments, please contact Christian Regosch at cpregosch@buckscounty.org. The Bucks County Planning Commission Offices are accessible to wheelchairs and handicap parking is also available.

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 County of Bucks 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