

**NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT
AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

PUBLICATION DATE: October 6, 2025
GRANTEE NAME: Somerset County
ADDRESS: 300 North Center Ave
Somerset, PA 15501
TELEPHONE: (814) 445-1400

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND PERSONS

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by Somerset County.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about October 22, 2025, Somerset County (County) will submit a request to the PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to release federal Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funds which are appropriated by Congress annually and must comply with governmentwide grant regulations at Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 200 (“2 CFR Part 200”), to be used for the project known as Garrett Borough Trail Improvements. The project consists of improvements to the 9/11 Trail’s Garrett Trailhead and the extension of the 9/11 Trail by approximately 1,500 feet. The Garrett Trailhead is located at 1787 Berlin Street Garrett, PA 15542. It is the Junction with the GAP Trail, off Berlin Street, south of the Casselman River. (Coordinates 39.860970,-79.063531). The 9/11 Trail Garrett Extension is located at Fogletown Road, under the SR219 Buffalo Creek Crossing, Garrett, PA. (Coordinates 39.872903,-79.043181)

The current trailhead will be redesigned and constructed. The existing parking area will be reconstructed and expanded and will include additional signage and landscaping. The Garrett Trailhead work includes clearing, grubbing, and removals, Earthwork, gravel and paving removals, hauling to off site fill, erosion and sedimentation controls, graveling and paving, graveling paths, installing signs/maps, fencing, relocating large trail items, and landscaping.

The 9/11 Trail will also be extended by approximately 1,500 feet from its current terminus between Fogletown Road and Buffalo Creek through the PADOT right of way associated with the State Route 219 extension and the Buffalo Creek Bridge. The trail extension will follow an existing railbed. The extension, traveling from west to east, will cross a stormwater channel, pass under the Buffalo Creek Bridge and run along a rain garden before crossing a final stormwater channel. The stormwater channels and rain garden are associated with the 219 extension. The trail extension work includes clearing the area of the proposed trail, general excavation and cut/fill operations to establish the trail subgrade, installing stormwater drainage pipes, construction of a soldier pile and concrete lagging retaining wall, and placing and compacting the trail surface aggregate. Work also includes installation and maintenance of erosion and sediment control structures and restoration of disturbed areas after construction is complete.

Estimated 2025 ARC Funding: \$930,319.00. Total estimated project cost: \$930,319.00.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The County has determined that the above projects 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 Records (ERR) on file at Redevelopment Authority of Somerset County, 300 North Center Avenue, Suite 520, Somerset, PA 15501, and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:30 A.M to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments to the Redevelopment Authority of Somerset County, 300 North Center Avenue, Suite 520, Somerset, PA 15501. All comments received by October 21, 2025, will be considered by the County prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The County certifies to DCED that Brian K. Fochtman, certifying officer, in his capacity as Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. DCED's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the County to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS

DCED will accept objections to its release of funds and the County's 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 the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the County; (b) the County has omitted a step or failed to make a determination 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 DCED; 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: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development at chrhowe@pa.gov. Potential objectors should contact DCED to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Brian K. Fochtman, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners