



CITY OF ALLENTOWN

No. 30150

RESOLUTION

R24 - 2021

Introduced by the Administration on February 17, 2021

Authorizes the Administration to Prepare and Submit to the Court a Declaration of Taking and Related Documentation pursuant to the Eminent Domain Code of 1964, as amended, to Acquire a Temporary Construction Easement and a Bikeway Easement Interest in the Property Located at 701 North Meadow Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania 18102 identified by the Lehigh County Assessment Office as Parcel Number 640724083828.

Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, That

WHEREAS, the City of Allentown is a Home Rule City of the Third Class organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is authorized to acquire private property for an authorized public purpose under the Pennsylvania Eminent Domain Code of 1964, as amended, 26 Pa.C.S § 101, et. seq., and;

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined a 1,743 square foot temporary construction easement and a 2,644 square foot bikeway easement on the parcel located at 701 North Meadow Street in Allentown (the "Parcel") would be beneficial for the public purpose of constructing and maintaining a 10- foot wide paved multi- use path for walking and bicycling known as the Jordan Creek Greenways Trail between Turner Street and MacArthur Road that will connect Jordan Park West, Jordan Park and Jordan Meadows Park to Center City Allentown; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has further determined that in order to make the intended improvements, it is necessary that the Parcel be acquired through appropriate means, including, if necessary, the exercise of eminent domain.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that

1. The Solicitor or his designee is hereby authorized and directed to prepare and the Mayor is hereby authorized to pursue acquisition of the Parcel it is necessary through appropriate means, including, but not limited to, eminent domain proceedings and to execute any and all appropriate legal documents to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

2. The Solicitor or his designee is hereby authorized to file such a Declaration of Taking and all related documents with the Clerk of Judicial Records and the Recorder of Deeds in and for Lehigh County and to take such other steps as may be necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

[Record of the Vote of City Council Appears on the Next Page]

	Yea	Nay
Candida Affa	X	
Ce-Ce Gerlach	X	
Daryl Hendricks	X	
Cynthia Mota		
Joshua Siegel	X	
Ed Zucal	X	
Julio A. Guridy, President	X	
TOTAL	6	0

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, That the above copy of Resolution No. 30150 was adopted by the City Council of Allentown on the 17th day of February, 2021, and is on file in the City Clerk's Office.


City Clerk

- **What Department or bureau is Bill originating from? Where did the initiative for the bill originate?**

Parks Department and Solicitor's Office

- **Summary and Facts of the Bill**

The request is for City Council's approval for the City to acquire land for the construction of a 10-foot wide paved multi-use path for walking and bicycling known as the Jordan Creek Greenways Trail between Turner Street and MacArthur Road. The bikeway will connect Jordan Park West, Jordan Park and Jordan Meadows Park to Center City Allentown by amicable purchase or by the exercise of eminent domain, as necessary.

- **Purpose – Please include the following in your explanation:**
 - **What does the Bill do – what are the specific goals/tasks the bill seek to accomplish**
 - **What are the Benefits of doing this/Down-side of doing this**
 - **How does this Bill related to the City's Vision/Mission/Priorities**

The Bill, if approved, will give the City the ability to negotiate an amicable acquisition or the authority to exercise its power of eminent domain to construct the Jordan Creek Greenways Trail.

The benefit is the pedestrian path and bikeway will connect Jordan Park West, Jordan Park and Jordan Meadows Park to Center City Allentown, a goal and priority of the Parks Department.

- **Financial Impact – Please include the following in your explanation:**
 - **Cost (Initial and ongoing)**
 - **Benefits (initial and ongoing)**

Please see below.

- **Funding Sources – Please include the following in your explanation:**
 - **If transferring funds, please make sure bill gives specific accounts; if appropriating funds from a grant list the agency awarding the grant.**

\$1,000,00- PennDOT grant

\$700,000- PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)

\$610,000- City of Allentown General Fund

\$173,000- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

\$229,000- Harry C. Trexler Trust (2020) (Council Ordinances 15624 & 15625)

\$61,965- (2019) (Council Ordinance 15626)

\$48,775- Harry C. Trexler Trust (Council Ordinance 15565)

Total: \$2,822,840

- **Priority status/Deadlines, if any**

Funding sources require that the acquisition of portions of the five (5) properties needed for the Jordan Creek Greenway Trail be as close to being completed by March 1, 2021. Construction bid advertising is currently scheduled for April 8, 2021 with construction anticipated to begin in July 2021.

- **Why should Council unanimously support this bill?**

City Council should unanimously support this Bill because the Jordan Creek Greenway Trail will make available yet another place for the community to exercise for the betterment of their health and wellness and enhance the already exemplary City Park system.

- **Committee Action**

- **Public Comments**

- **Body/Text of the Bill**

- **Exhibits**

- **Vote**