



CITY OF ALLENTOWN

No. _____

RESOLUTION

R192 - 2024

Introduced by the Administration on November 6, 2024

Authorizes submission of a formal application to the Department of Community and Economic Development for a grant of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) to support the construction of a 1.2-mile extension of the Martin Luther King Drive (MLK) Trail.

Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, That

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Allentown, Lehigh County hereby requests a Statewide Local Share Account (LSA) DCED Grant of \$1,000,000 from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to support the construction of a 1.2 mile extension of the Martin Luther King Drive (MLK) Trail.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Allentown hereby designates Matt Tuerk, Mayor, and Bina Patel, Finance Director, as the official(s) to execute all documents and agreements between the City of Allentown and the Commonwealth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Allentown, hereby authorizes the City of Allentown to submit the application for One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) in Statewide Local Share Account (LSA) DCED Funds to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

Legislative Template

- What department or bureau is this bill originating from? Where did the initiative for the bill originate?

Parks and Recreation

- Summary and facts of the bill.

Parks and Recreation requests a resolution required to submit a DCED Statewide Local Share Account (LSA) for MLK Trail extension. Total cost estimate is \$2,292,341.00. Grant ask is \$1,000,000 and no match is required. We have received a \$250,000 DCED-MTF grant, and we have also applied to DCED-MTF for the same project funding due to the competitive nature of this grant.

- Purpose – Please include the following in your explanation:
 - a. What does the bill do? What are the specific goals or tasks the bill seeks to accomplish?

The bill will allow Parks and Recreation to apply for a DCED Statewide LSA. This project involves construction of a 1.2-mile extension of the Martin Luther King Drive (MLK) Trail.

- b. What are the benefits of doing this? What are the drawbacks?

The proposed 10-foot-wide paved, multi-use path provides a strategic walking and bicycling link from Lehigh Parkway Park to Fountain Park in the City of Allentown, Lehigh County. The project also closes a critical gap between the MLK Trail and the Little Lehigh Parkway Path network creating an 8-mile-long trail network in this section of Allentown.

- c. How does this bill relate to the City's vision/mission/priorities?

It supports building trails and increasing connectivity for non-vehicular modes of transportation.

- Financial Impact – Please include the following in your explanation:
 - a. Cost (initial and ongoing)

The remaining \$1,042,341.00 project balance netted after this grant and the \$250K DCED-MTF grant will be funded with City Funds or 2025-2026 Trexler funds.

- b. Benefits (initial and ongoing)

Trails increase the value of nearby properties, boost spending at local businesses. Communities along trails benefit from the influx of visitors, On longer trails, hotels, bed and breakfasts, and outdoor outfitters benefit. Trails make communities more attractive places to live. When considering where to move, homebuyers rank walking.

- Funding Sources – Please include the following in your explanation:
 - a. If transferring funds, please make sure to give specific account names and numbers. If appropriating funds from a grant, please list the agency awarding the grant.

No match required.

- Priority status – Are there any deadlines to be aware of?

Deadline for application is 11/30/24

- Why should Council unanimously support this bill?

It will allow access to state grant funds to build a trail. It supplements the previous 2 grants submitted for this project.