

NEWS From the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grant awarded to construct 4.8 miles of D&L Trail in Luzerne County

HANOVER TOWNSHIP, LUZERNE CO (May 11, 2022) – Hanover Township has been awarded \$1 Million by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) to construct 4.8 miles of D&L Trail from Mountain Top to Oliver Mills, Laurel Run, PA.

This award was made possible through PennDOT’s Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TASA) funded by The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, enacted as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. TASA provides funding for transportation alternatives projects, such as trails that provide pedestrian and bicycle transportation accessibility. Hanover Township is the municipal sponsor for this award on behalf of the landowner, Anthracite Scenic Trails Association (ASTA). ASTA owns and maintains over 15 miles of D&L Trail in Luzerne County.

Hanover Township Manager, Samuel Guesto, said, **“Hanover Township is grateful to receive this funding for such an important project. Partnering with ASTA and the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor (DLNHC) for work on this trail has the potential to improve important life and health metrics for the local communities by making the trail and its associated economic and health benefits more accessible to the public.”**

The Oliver Mills to Mountain Top Trail Development project will include the formalization of a currently open, but unimproved section of the D&L Trail located on the railroad alignment of the former Lehigh Valley Railroad. Work will include grading and resurfacing the trail, repairing/improving drainage, interpretive and way-finding signage, fence and gate installation to prevent unauthorized vehicles, and trailhead improvements. This section of trail also includes important scenic and historic views of the Ashley Planes.

“We are very grateful to Hanover Township for their support as the municipal sponsor of this project, **which also includes Laurel Run Borough and Fairview Township,**” said Sean Robbins, interim President of ASTA. **“Receiving this grant** will allow us to add nearly five miles of trail to the northern end of the D&L Trail, and provide additional recreation and economic opportunities for the residents of Luzerne County, as well as those who travel to our area to use the trail. We look forward to working **with all of the municipalities as we move forward.”**

This funding award puts the D&L Trail 4.8 miles closer to connecting the 20-mile Luzerne Gap, the longest D&L Trail gap remaining.

Claire Sadler, Executive Director of the DLNHC said, “Because DLNHC does not own any of the land for the D&L Trail, it is strong partnerships like this one, and supportive funders that are fueling our progress toward connecting communities to over 165 miles of continuous D&L Trail and heritage from Wilkes-Barre to Bristol along historic canal and railroad routes.”

For more information and project status updates, contact DLNHC Trail & Stewardship Manager, Liz Rosencrans at trail@delawareandlehigh.org.

The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that preserves, interprets, and leverages the nationally significant historic pathway that carried coal and iron from Wilkes-Barre to Philadelphia. Today, the D&L connects people to nature, culture, communities, recreation, and our industrial heritage. For more information, visit delawareandlehigh.org/.

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