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Executive Director

January 21, 2021

«FIRST_NAME» «LAST_NAME»
 «STREET»
 «CITY», «STATE» «ZIP»

RE: Newtown Rail Trail Update

Dear Neighbors:

We hope this email finds you doing well. Additionally, as we have heard from several of you, we hope that you continue to be pleased with the construction of the trail to date. As we have done throughout this process, this letter is our latest effort to keep you informed of the most recent developments relative to the ongoing development of the Newtown Rail Trail.

Construction schedule

In our last communication in August of this year, we provided a timetable as to what to anticipate over the next few months. As with any schedule of this type, it is subject to change based on a number of factors including weather, materials availability, and most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic.

Activity	Month Work Begins	Approximate Duration
Installation of top surface stone	February 2021	1 - 2 Months
Mill Creek culvert slope stabilization	Ongoing	2 Months
Installation of traffic signal at County Line Road and New Road	March 2021	7 Weeks
Installation of fencing and landscaping	Ongoing	1 - 2 Months
Installation of concrete curbs, ADA ramps, and sidewalks in select locations	March 2021	2 Months
Cleanup along the trail	April 2021	1 Month
Final Inspection including review of landscaping	June 2021	2 Weeks
Trail opens	July 2021	

These are all **tentative** dates; both the start dates and duration are subject to change. Should there be significant departures from this schedule, we will communicate those as they occur. However, as the construction schedule is controlled by the contractor, please understand that the County does not control when specific activities will occur and how long they will last.



Installation of Fencing and Landscaping

As many of you may have noticed, the installation of landscaping and fencing has already begun along portions of the trail. Specific to that, we wanted to again remind you of where the landscape and fencing plans can be found. <https://trails-bucksgis.opendata.arcgis.com/pages/nrt-update-jumps#Plans>

Similarly, as communicated earlier, these plans and the depiction of proposed landscaping and fencing are for general location purposes and construction bidding purposes. ***Final locations of all landscaping will be field-verified to account for existing vegetation, topography and other existing site conditions affecting placement of these items. While the intent is to remain as true to the plans as feasible, please note that site conditions may result in variations between actual installation and the plans.***

Additionally, as indicated previously, a final inspection will be conducted to ensure that the landscaping and fencing is in compliance with the construction and landscaping plans. At that time, any deviations will be identified and discussed with the contractor, and where possible, given site constraints, possible solutions discussed.

Specific to the fencing, we have also heard from several of you requesting that fencing boards not be installed in some areas along the trail, resulting in the creation of a gap or access point to the trail for adjacent residents. As we have communicated, we are maintaining a record of these requests and will revisit these requests in the future. While many of you are requesting access to the trail, please be aware that some adjacent residents are not receptive to that access given the potential for non-neighbors accessing the trail using that same gap.

Trail usage

We also wanted to take this opportunity to remind people to please refrain from using the trail corridor until the trail is finished as it remains an active construction zone. This request is being made to help ensure your personal safety.

Additionally, as there have been reports of individuals walking their dogs unleashed along the under-construction trail, we want to remind everyone that all dogs must be under your control as required by both state, county, and municipal regulations. This is for the protection of both you and your dog, as well as dogs and other animals residing in yards located adjacent to the trail corridor.

Should you have any questions, please check the Newtown Rail Trail website located at <https://trails-bucksgis.opendata.arcgis.com/pages/newtown-rail-trail-updates> or contact Richard Brahler, Director of Transportation Planning, Bucks County Planning Commission at 215-345-3427 or rgbrahler@buckscounty.org.

Sincerely,

Bucks County Planning Commission



Evan J. Stone, PLA
Executive Director