



# ***Borough of Chambersburg***

*A full-service municipality in Franklin County celebrating over 65 years of consumer owned natural gas service over 120 years of community electric and a regional wastewater, water, storm sewer and municipal solid waste utility*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Chambersburg Borough Receives Grant for Rail Trail Extension Feasibility Study**

**CHAMBERSBURG, PA – December 18, 2025** – The Borough of Chambersburg will be considering the feasibility of adding extensions to its existing Rail Trail network, thanks to a \$150,000 grant from the Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program on Thursday.

“We highly value having recreational opportunities for our residents and this is an exciting next step toward expanding the Chambersburg Rail Trail system,” Borough Manager Jeffrey Stonehill said. “The borough is extremely appreciative of the continued support we have received from Representative Rob Kauffman and Senator Doug Mastriano to further enhance our community with these recreation projects.”

Currently located between Commerce Street in the north and South Main Street in the south, the existing Chambersburg section of the Cumberland Valley Rail Trail, is a 1.6-mile linear park, providing an important recreational and community asset for pedestrians and bicyclists traveling through downtown Chambersburg. The rail trail extension feasibility study will fully assess current conditions and highlight key barriers, as well as identify opportunities for multimodal connectivity, refinements to proposed additions, and improvements along and across public roadways to increase the length of the facility, and additional opportunities for expansion, and safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. The study is essential to evaluate environmental, technical, legal, and financial factors to ensure the trail extensions can be built safely and sustainably.

“The Chambersburg Rail Trail is already a beloved asset” Representative Kauffman said. “This study will give us the roadmap to extend the Rail Trail responsibly, improving recreation and transportation options while preserving the character of our community.”

The planned 18-month process will include extensive community engagement through public meetings, interviews, and other outreach. At its conclusion, the study will provide the Borough a prioritized list of recommended improvements, analysis of preferred alignments, and cost estimates for design and construction of rail trail extensions that will advance the mission of creating a more walkable community.

“This grant gives us the resources to engage the public, analyze potential routes, and identify the safest, most effective ways to expand the Rail Trail” Recreation Director Matthew Hutchison said. “It’s a continued effort to make Chambersburg even more walkable and bike-friendly.”

The Plan will evaluate areas between Commerce Street and South Main Street, with the following proposed extensions to be studied:

- Northern extension connecting to Wilson College;
- Southern Extension to Fourth Street;
- A new Broad Street Greenway and Third Street Greenway to connect King Street to Norland Avenue;
- A new Meeting Place Greenway connection at Queen Street; and
- A connection to Progress Road.

Within the next two years, a section of the Rail Trail, along Water Street will be enhanced into a linear park, as a result of two other State grants received to target improving that section.

The Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program is funded by the Commonwealth Financing Authority through Act 13 of 2012, which established the Marcellus Legacy Fund and allocates funds for planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, parks and beautification projects. The borough’s project was one of 135 GTRP awards statewide.

For questions or comments, please contact Borough Manager Jeffrey Stonehill at [jstonehill@chambersburgpa.gov](mailto:jstonehill@chambersburgpa.gov)

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#### About [Chambersburg](#):

Chambersburg is a unique community. Chambersburg supplies more services than any other municipality in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In addition to typical town functions, Chambersburg is Pennsylvania’s only municipality providing electric and gas to residents and businesses. Chambersburg is 1 of 35 Boroughs to operate a municipal non-profit electric utility. Chambersburg is the largest municipal electric utility in the State, twice as large as the second largest, Ephrata, Lancaster County; and, the only one to operate multiple generation stations. Chambersburg is 1 of 2 municipalities in PA to operate a natural gas utility. The other is Philadelphia, which does not operate an electric utility. Nationally, Chambersburg is 1 of 2,000 communities to have its own electric system and 1 of 1,000 communities to have a natural gas system but 1 of only about 60 to operate both. Chambersburg manages a regional water system, a regional sanitary sewer system (not through an independent Authority), and a new storm sewer utility; one of the first storm sewer utilities to form under the new Federal mandate to regulate stormwater. Chambersburg has a famous Aquatic Center as well. Chambersburg, the County Seat of Franklin County, currently has 22,172 residents (2022) and over 11,000 utility customers.