How is construction of the trail being funded?

- The construction of the trail will be funded via tax dollars allocated to PennDOT's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) specifically allocated to fund trail projects on The Circuit. Additional information on The Circuit can be found here: http://www.circuittrails.org/what-is-the-circuit

Was there a public vote to approve the project?

- Yes, the Upper Southampton Township Board of Supervisors approved a resolution of support for the project on May 5, 2015.

Will the road crossings at County Line Road and Second Street Pike be safe?

- All roadway crossings for the proposed trail are being designed by licensed professional engineers/designers in accordance with all applicable state, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) regulations and standards. Furthermore, they will occur at either new or existing signalized intersections with all applicable pedestrian safety devices and painted crosswalks as part of the normal traffic control sequence.

Who will be responsible for maintaining the trail?

- Maintenance responsibilities will be shared with Upper Southampton Township being responsible for routine maintenance and Bucks County for major repairs. The specifics of which are in the process of being finalized. Additionally, there will be opportunities for community organizations such as the Penn Tammany Greenway Coalition, local scouting groups, etc. to participate in maintaining the trail.

Who will sign the lease with SEPTA?

- Bucks County will sign a 30-year lease with SEPTA.

Will the trail be plowed in winter?

- No, the trail will not be plowed. Snow cover will enable a different set of users such as snowshoe users and cross-country skiers to make use of the trail.

Will there be lighting along the trail?

- No lighting is planned as the posted hours will be sunrise to sunset.

Will fencing and landscaping be provided?

- This will be determined on a case-by-case basis. However, any landscaping and/or fencing provided would be located within the rail corridor right-of-way, not on private property. This will both better define the trail corridor and have no impact on existing private property landscaping.

What is the surface of the trail going to be?

- The trail surface will consist of finely crushed stone as this surface represents a good balance of cost effectiveness for both construction and ongoing maintenance, while also facilitating a broad range of users. This surface is consistent with the Pennypack Trail, to which this trail will connect.

Is the trail going to be designed in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) regulations?

- Yes, the trail will be designed and will be built to current ADA accessibility standards.

Who will be responsible for patrolling the trail?

- The Upper Southampton Police Department will be responsible for patrolling the trail.

Are motorized vehicles allowed on the trail?

- The only motorized vehicles allowed to use the trail will be battery-powered wheelchairs/scooters for those differently abled, maintenance vehicles and vehicles used to patrol the trail.

Will horses be allowed on the trail?

- No.

Will dogs be allowed on the trail?

- Dogs will be allowed on the trail as long as they are kept on leashes.

Will bicycles be allowed on the trail?

- Yes, bicycles will be allowed on the trail. However, racing-style bicycles with very skinny tires may find the crushed stone surface of the trail challenging.

Will electric bicycles be allowed on the trail?

- Class 1 and 2 electric bicycles, defined as having a motor under 750w, a maximum speed of 20mph, and having operable pedals, will be allowed on the trail. Class 3 electric bikes, defined as a being equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour, and is equipped with a speedometer, are prohibited.

Where can I park to access the trail?

- Parking will be available in Upper Southampton Township at the former Southampton Train Station located near the intersection of Second Street Pike and Knowles Avenue and also at Tamanend Park, 1255 Second Street Pike, where a connection to the trail will be available.
- Once the Pennypack Trail in Montgomery County, extending from Byberry Road to County Line Road, is complete, trail users may also park at the existing trailhead parking lot located at 1750 Byberry Rd, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

What measures will be taken to prevent trail users from parking on adjacent residential streets and commercial businesses?

- For those areas identified as improper parking areas adjacent to the trail, signage prohibiting parking will be provided.

Who do I contact if I have an issue with trail users trespassing on my property or need to report a problem?

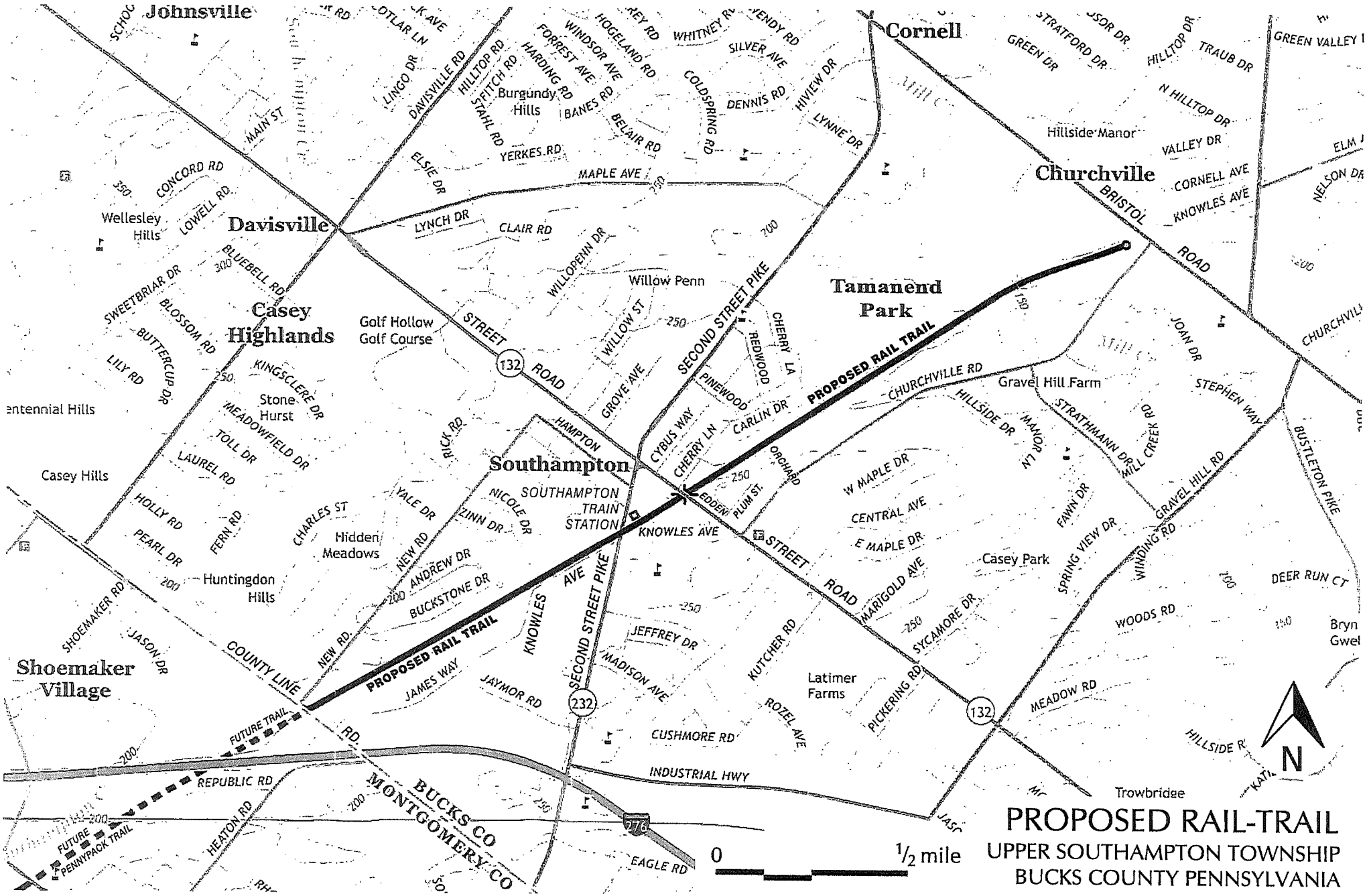
- In the case of a true medical or other life safety emergency, call 911 first
- For non-emergency situations please contact the Upper Southampton Township Police Department at (215) 357-8900.

What are the plans for continuing the trail into the remaining municipalities along the rail corridor?

- The County remains open to working with the adjacent municipalities to extend the trail beyond Upper Southampton Township, but will respect the wishes of each municipality on their decision on whether or not the trail gets constructed within their community.
- Newtown Borough provided a resolution of support for the trail on April 12, 2016.
- Newtown Township provided a resolution of support on February 10, 2016 contingent upon the support of the four other municipalities located along the proposed alignment.
- Middletown Township has not provided a letter of support as they were waiting to ensure that the George School, through which the rail corridor in Middletown Township passes, was supportive of the project. The George School, while not providing a formal vote or resolution, has indicated that they are supportive of the project in concept, contingent upon the trail continuing into the adjacent municipalities of Northampton and Newtown townships.

Who owns the railroad right-of-way?

- The owner is Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA). SEPTA acquired the railroad from Consolidated Rail Corporation (CONRAIL). CONRAIL had previously acquired the railroad from the trustees of Reading Company. Although out of service for thirty-five years, SEPTA has not filed for abandonment of the right-of-way.



PROPOSED RAIL-TRAIL

UPPER SOUTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP

BUCKS COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA