MERCER COUNTY OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION BOARD RES. NO. 2026 -04

Subject: Recommendation to Fund the Borough of Hightstown "Roger C. Cook Greenway" Trail Grant Rehabilitation Application for $142,150

WHEREAS, the County has created the Mercer County Trail Grant Program (the "Program") to provide funding for projects which support trail development, enhance recreation, mobility, and connectivity, and are consistent with the goals of the Mercer County Open Space and Recreation Plan and local open space plans; and,

WHEREAS, one of the duties of the Open Space Preservation Board (the "Board") is to provide recommendations to the County Executive regarding the Program; and,

WHEREAS, part of the Program's policy includes providing a percentage of funds to assist municipalities and nonprofit preservation partners to aid in trail projects of local importance; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hightstown has requested assistance from the County in the amount of $142,150 to aid in the rehabilitation of the Roger C. Cook Greenway, a well-established 2,250-foot stone dust pathway connecting multiple Borough parks, the Historic District, Central Business District, and regional trail connectivity to the Township of East Windsor, in Hightstown; and,

WHEREAS, the Project will rehabilitate the existing stone dust path by regrading and restoring degraded portions, installing concrete edging to minimize erosion, maintaining consistent ADA-compliant 10-foot width, and providing improved drainage and landscaping, along with ADA-accessible improvements to adjacent Dawes Park; and,

WHEREAS, the Roger C. Cook Greenway was constructed in 2006 and has since become an important pedestrian and cyclist pathway for members of the local community, connecting residential neighborhoods to key community destinations and providing regional connectivity; and,

WHEREAS, the Project connects with the Hightstown Historic District and Downtown Commercial District (which have been fully rehabilitated through prior award-winning revitalization efforts funded with State and Federal grants) with multiple residential neighborhoods, public parks, open spaces, and the Hightstown Memorial Library, Peddie School, Peddie Lake, and the Peddie Lake Walking Bridge, and ultimately links to the Township of East Windsor; and,

WHEREAS, the total project cost is $284,300, with the Borough of Hightstown providing matching funds of $142,150 from municipal resources, Mercer at Play grant ($50,000), and municipal match for Mercer at Play ($25,000), and additional funding sources to be secured; and,

WHEREAS, the project is construction-ready with final design plans, specifications, engineer's cost estimate, construction schedule, Mercer County Soil Conservation and Sediment

Consent Certification application submitted, and Borough Resolution 2026-123 authorizing the application; and,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board recommends approval whereby Mercer County will fund the grant for $142,150 to the Borough of Hightstown for the Roger C. Cook Greenway Rehabilitation project, subject to execution of a Project Agreement and compliance with all requirements of the Mercer County Trail Grant Program.

DATE ADOPTED: August 6, 2026

SECRETARY: