

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

DATE OF NOTICE: December 4, 2021
RESPONSIBLE ENTITY: City of Erie
ADDRESS: Department of Economic and Community Development
626 State Street, Room 404
Erie, PA 16501
TELEPHONE: 814-870-1274

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Erie (City).

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about December 21, 2021, the City will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of federal Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383), as amended, to undertake the following project:

ASSESSED PROJECTS

Downtown Streetscape

The proposed Downtown Streetscape master plan project includes four phases with six projects over a period of three years. Phases 1a, 1b and 1c will take care of underground and infrastructure. Phases 2, 3 and 4 will be the reconstruction of concrete sidewalk and curb.

Phase 1a will include about 25 soil cells and inlets. A soil cell provides an underground structure to support the sidewalk and roadway yet contain loosely compacted soil in which tree roots can grow and thrive without damaging the roadway and sidewalk surface. This phase will also remove misplaced trees, trim well placed trees and plant trees where they are missing. Tree placement is critical to provide proper unobstructed street lighting and adequate coverage. This phase will be constructed on State Street, east and west sides, from 2nd to 12th Streets.

Phase 1b will be the Perry Square Electric Service Expansion. This phase will be the expansion of the existing electric service in Perry Square East and West to provide additional connection points during events and during food service for better coverage and to eliminate the need for lengthy and overhead extension cords. Work limits will be Perry Square East and West (between North Park Row and South Park Row, Peach and French Streets).

Phase 1c is Street lighting and electric service. This phase will replace and rehabilitate aging street lighting with proposed streetscape standard decorative lighting, poles, arms and fixtures and provide metered electric service with conduit and cable as required. The work will take place generally on State and French Streets from 2nd to 12th; E 3rd, 4th and 5th from State to French; North Park Row and South Park Row from Peach to French and E 6th, N side, from French to Parade.

Phases 2, 3 and 4 will be the replacement of aging and defective concrete sidewalks and curbs. The grade tree boxes will be expanded to appropriate sizes to permit watering, aeration and growth of tree roots with walkable permeable easily maintained surfaces. The tentative location of Phases 2, 3 and 4 will be generally in the area between Peach and French Streets and between 2nd and 12th Streets, each phase equally divided in cost, and work spread over at least the next three years at one phase per year.

CDBG estimated project cost: FY21-\$491,593; FY22-23-\$910,957

Total estimated project cost: \$7.25 million

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

The City has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file with the City of Erie and can be accessed online at <https://cityof.erie.pa.us>.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Debra Smith, Department of Economic and Community Development, 626 State Street, Room 404, Erie, PA 16501, or by email to dsmith@erie.pa.us. All comments received by December 20, 2021 will be considered by the City prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City certifies to HUD that Joseph V. Schember, Certifying Officer, in his capacity as Mayor of the City of Erie, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City to use CDBG funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the City's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City; (b) the City has omitted a step or failed to make a determination or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs, or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another federal

agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted via email in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76), and shall be addressed to the HUD Pittsburgh Field Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD), Attn: Phillip McKeough, CPD Director, by phone at (412) 644-5846, or by email to phillip.e.mckeough@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact HUD Pittsburgh via email to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Joseph V. Schember, Mayor