

# Press Release



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July 5, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Fort Washington Office Park Receives Grants Awards for Further Improvements**

FORT WASHINGTON, PA - Upper Dublin Township has received two new grant awards from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that together will help to advance the key transportation improvement plans for the Fort Washington Office Park. Overall, more than \$5 million in grant funding has been raised for office park improvement projects.

With a \$2.037 million grant award from the Multimodal Transportation Fund via the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA), the Township's plans are now fully-funded to construct a new "zip ramp" from the PA Turnpike interchange directly into the office park, and onto a redesigned roadway.

This new access will enable commuters to exit from the Turnpike toll plaza directly onto Commerce Drive. A new signalized intersection will be constructed at the sharp turn in

the road between the Best Western Hotel and the new Trumark Financial Credit Union headquarters building at 335 Commerce. This intersection will also serve the new Life Time Fitness facility, now under construction on an adjacent 13.8 acre site at Commerce Drive, facing the Turnpike tolls. Many other properties in that area will benefit.

In a related announcement, another CFA grant for \$250,000 from the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program was awarded to Upper Dublin Township, to help fund a redesign of the roadway and construction of a paved walking and biking trail. A resurfacing, softening of curves and “road diet” are planned to modernize the infrastructure and increase public safety. Along the roadway at certain points, traffic lanes will be reduced from four traffic lanes to two, with a dedicated center turn lane.

“This is exciting news for businesses and property owners in the Fort Washington Office Park,” said Paul Leonard, Upper Dublin Township Manager. “The improved access from the Turnpike will reduce commute times for everyone in the park. The new Life Time Fitness facility will be a great amenity for office park users and residents, plus the roadway improvements and the new trail connecting the office park to the Fort Washington SEPTA train station nearby will enhance an already great location for businesses here.”

For their efforts in helping to secure these grant commitments, Upper Dublin Township would like to acknowledge and thank PA Rep. Todd Stephens, PA Rep. Thomas Murt, PA Sen. Vincent Hughes and PA Rep. Madeleine Dean.

The total cost estimate for the Turnpike Zip Ramp and the Commerce Drive Road Diet & Trail projects is \$8.85 million. With total grant commitments of \$5,150,000, and a financial contribution of \$700,000 from Life Time Fitness, Upper Dublin Township is presently obligated to funding the balance of \$3 million.

The replacement of two older, structurally-deficient bridges serving Fort Washington Office Park on Virginia Drive is currently in process. The bridge construction is expected to be completed by mid-year 2017.

### **About the Fort Washington Office Park**

The Fort Washington Office Park is the primary center of business and industry in Upper Dublin Township. This 536 acre, multi-use modern business park is strategically located at the crossroads of the PA Turnpike and PA Route 309, in the heart of suburban eastern Montgomery County and only fourteen miles from Center City Philadelphia.

This regional commerce center consists of 123 properties with more than 65 buildings, containing roughly 6 million square feet of commercial space. This includes Class A office facilities, back-office operations, distribution and manufacturing, hotel, restaurant and recreation uses.

More information is available at <http://www.upperdublin.net/business-development/fort-washington-office-park-fwop/>

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