



MEMORANDUM

TO: Jenkintown Borough Council

FROM: Jenkintown Borough Planning Commission

DATE: 5 January 2026

RE: Letter of Support for Proposed SPS Technologies Greenway and Trail Concept

Dear Members of Borough Council,

Considering that Jenkintown Borough has virtually no significant open space of its own; regional trail and greenway development and access is especially important to the health, recreation, and mobility of Borough residents and is consistent with the goals of the Jenkintown 2035 Comprehensive Plan.

The SPS Technologies property is in Abington Township at the intersection of Jenkintown Borough, Cheltenham Township, and Abington Township, with the Tookany Creek forming two edges of the site. A multi-municipal advocacy group representing these three communities and supported by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia, and the Circuit Trails Coalition, has developed a Greenway and Trail concept proposal and presented it to a representative of SPS Technologies for consideration.

The concept proposal envisions a right-of-way for a trail beginning at Highland Avenue along the western edge of the SPS property that would be wide enough to qualify for grant funding. This right-of-way would follow a proposed trail alignment extending to the eastern edge of the site while following Tookany Creek and setback at a mostly level section suitable for a trail. The concept proposal also envisions a wide easement for a tree-lined Greenway and Riparian Forest Buffer along the southeastern edge of the property facing Jenkintown Borough. Importantly, the concept is structured to qualify for external grant funding, which could significantly offset design, construction, and long-term maintenance costs while minimizing financial exposure for SPS. The proposed easement would provide a meaningful Greenway setback from Tookany Creek, supporting watershed protection while enhancing public access and regional trail connectivity.

The Jenkintown Borough Planning Commission reviewed the multi-municipal advocacy group's conceptual proposal at its public meeting on December 16, 2025. The Planning Commission unanimously voted in support of this direction and respectfully requests that SPS Technologies consider the conceptual plan and work collaboratively with the community and the multi-municipal advocacy group. The Jenkintown Planning Commission believes this proposal represents a significant community benefit, advances watershed-focused greenway initiatives, and strengthens the regional trail network. We appreciate SPS Technologies' willingness to consider this opportunity and to have a multi-municipal and community driven dialogue with its design team.

The Planning Commission requests that this letter be read into the record at the next Jenkintown Borough Council meeting where business is discussed and asks Borough Council to review the same community-driven Greenway and Trail conceptual proposal and consider issuing a similar letter in support of this initiative.

Sincerely,

Jenkintown Borough Planning Commission

Lucinda Bartley
Rob Ghormoz
Eric Horowitz, Secretary
Jon McCandlish, Chair
Allison Shertzer
Peter Van Do
Phil Zimmerman

cc: George Locke, Borough Manager

Attachment: Greenway and Trail concept proposal as presented to SPS Technologies.