

COMBINED NOTICE: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT/INTENT TO REQUEST
RELEASE OF FUNDS

Date of Publication: May 02, 2016

Town of Damascus
P.O. Box 576
206 W. Laurel Ave
Damascus, VA 24236
(276) 475-3831 / Virginia Relay Center 711

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

On or about May 18, 2016 the Town of Damascus will request the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to release Federal funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383) to be used for the following project:

Damascus Downtown Revitalization Project

Through this project, the Town will acquire 1 property in the heart of downtown for current use and future economic development (Damascus Outdoor Recreation and Nature Center to be discussed later); create a Downtown Connector which includes 1000 LF of existing corridor improvements and 500 LF of new ADA corridor construction linking the Creeper Trail, Appalachian Trail, and Laurel Creek waterfront assets together; utilize the Economic Restructuring Plan of the Town to implement a way-finding system, including new signage, and initiate usage of the Town's new branding system; as well as, improve building facades through a 50:50 match program implemented by the Town.

Town of Damascus, Washington Co. Virginia

CDBG funding \$659,400

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

It has been determined that such request for release of funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and, accordingly, the above-named Town of Damascus has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Policy Act of 1969 (PL 91-190).

The reasons for such decision not to prepare such Statement are as follows:

Façade improvements, demolition of severely blighted properties will not involve disturbance of any previously undisturbed ground.

A survey of the Federal database concludes that no wetlands are located within the project area. A similar survey concludes that no endangered species are located within the project area.

A review of FIRM/FEMA flood maps indicate that there is a potential impact and that early public notice and public hearing was conducted and notice of explanation was published with no significant impact.

An archive search conducted as part of the Section 106 Review process has determined that no documented archaeological sites are located in the project area.

Short periods characterized by some dust and noise pollution generated by construction activities will be the only adverse environmental condition generated by this project.

An Environmental Review Record respecting the Damascus Downtown Revitalization Project has been made by the Town which documents the environmental review of the project and more fully sets forth the reasons why such Statement is not required. This Environmental Review Record is on file at the above address and is available for public examination and copying, upon request, between the 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

No further environmental review of such project is proposed to be conducted, prior to the request for release of Federal funds.

All interested agencies, groups and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the town to the office of the undersigned. Such written comments should be received at the address specified on or before May 17, 2016. All such comments so received will be considered and the Town will not request the release of Federal funds or take any administrative action on the within project prior to May 18, 2016. Comments should specify which aspect of the environmental review they are addressing.

INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Town of Damascus will undertake the project described above with Block Grant funds from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. Damascus is certifying to DHCD that the Town and Gavin Blevins in his official capacity as Town Manager, consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval, Damascus may use the Community Development Block Grant funds, and DHCD will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities. DHCD will accept an objection to its approval of the Release of Funds and acceptance of the Town's Certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or DHCD's actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the chief executive officer or other officer of applicant

approved by DHCD; (b) that applicant's Environmental Review Record for the project indicates omission of a required decision, finding, or step applicable to the project in the environmental review process; (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD/State; (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 in accordance with the required procedure (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76), and may be addressed to:

DIRECTOR
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
ATTN: PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AND ASSISTANCE OFFICE
600 East Main Street, Suite 300
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219-1321

Gavin N. Blevins, Town Manager
Town of Damascus

THE COMBINED NOTICE (FONSI/NOI-RROF) MUST BE DISTRIBUTED TO:

Barbara Rudnick, PG
NEPA Team Leader
US EPA Region III (3EA30)
1650 Arch Street, Phila, PA 19103
(215) 814-3322/ Fax: (215) 814-2783
Rudnick.Barbara@epamail.epa.gov

Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Environmental Enhancement
629 East Main Street, 6th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 698-4330

Director
Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development
Attn: Program Administration and Assistance Office
600 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219-1321
(804) 371-7061 [Virginia Relay Center 771 / FAX 371-7093]

Local Regional and Tribal Agencies adjacent to or surrounding the jurisdiction issuing the NOI-RROF.