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June 30 , 2020

Ms. Carol Reichbaum
University of Pittsburgh
Center for Public Health Practice
130 De Soto Street, A726
Pittsburgh, PA 15261

Dear Ms. Reichbaum,

The Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) is writing in support of the WalkWorks grant application made by Bethlehem City. The grant would go towards the creation of an Active Transportation Plan focused on the Broad Street corridor to improve the walking, bicycling, wheeling and transit infrastructure. The goal is to increase safety and accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists, as well as enhance the quality of life for residents by offering safe and environmentally friendly transportation options along this corridor.

This three mile corridor was designated as a priority for transit improvements by the Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority in the 2014 Lehigh Valley Enhanced Bus Rapid Transit study. The corridor was also recently highlighted in the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission's "Walk/Roll/LV – An Active Transportation Plan" as a catalytic project for the region. The Plan and project description note that this corridor serves thousands of people daily, serves 5 LANTA bus routes, includes Safe Routes to School and is a major shopping and dining hub as it passes through the core downtown area.

Furthermore, Bethlehem City is in the process of creating a Climate Action Plan (CAP). In concert with the goals of the CAP, increasing safety and accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists will allow more people to avail themselves of these modes of transportation in lieu of cars. Efficient bus service also provides an alternative to automobiles, reducing both traffic and greenhouse gas emissions. As the levels of greenhouse gases increase, we can expect worsening health effects, increased temperatures and flooding in our City.

We believe this project will have a positive impact on the welfare of our residents and the environment. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Lynn Rothman

Lynn Rothman, Chair

On behalf of the Bethlehem EAC:

Beth Behrend

Ben Guthrie

Elisabeth Cichonski

Brian Nicas

Ben Felzer

Mike Topping