



MEMORANDUM

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Berks County Planning Commission
Berks County Services Center
633 Court Street, 14th Floor
Reading, PA 19601-4309

TO: Berks County Planning Commission

FROM: Devon B. Hain, Transportation Planner II

RE: DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund Application – Carsonia Avenue Improvements Project
– Lower Alsace Township

DATE: July 29, 2022

The Berks County Planning Commission is in receipt of the Lower Alsace Township application for the Carsonia Avenue Improvements Project under the Department of Community and Economic Development's (DCED) Multimodal Transportation Fund Program.

Project Description:

The proposed project would involve improvements along Carsonia Avenue in Lower Alsace Township within the existing legal right of way, consisting of the construction of curbing, a five (5) foot wide concrete sidewalk on the south side of Carsonia Avenue, ADA curb ramps at each intersection, and associated storm sewer improvements and pavement restoration. The curbing, sidewalk, and ADA curb ramps are located within the municipal boundaries of Lower Alsace Township from Logan Street to Parkview Avenue for an approximate distance of 2,480 linear feet.

Project Findings:

There is currently no existing sidewalk within this section of Carsonia Avenue but would connect to the existing sidewalk network along Carsonia Avenue southwest of Parkview Avenue and the sidewalk that will be added northeast of Logan Street associated with a PennDOT bridge replacement project. The proposed sidewalk will allow for safe pedestrian passage. Safe pedestrian access is especially needed at this location since a majority of students use Carsonia Avenue to access Antietam School and associated facilities. The construction cost estimate for this project is \$1,135,377.

The project, located in the legal right of way, is in an area of Existing Development in Lower Alsace Township as identified by the Berks County Comprehensive Plan 2030 Update. Within this area, the plan calls for:

“A variety of reinvestment, rehabilitation, and revitalization efforts, will be promoted to take advantage of the extensive infrastructure network in place, to improve the tax base of the urban centers, and keep our older urban areas vibrant. Municipalities are encouraged to create public/ private partnerships that jointly support a community-driven comprehensive strategy to revitalize, stabilize and grow older neighborhoods.”

Additionally, sidewalks along Carsonia Avenue in this area were listed as a medium ranked project with timing of implementation proposed within 6 to 10 years based on the number of goals included in the Berks County Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan the project would fulfill and the amount of time and costs to fulfill this project. The implementation of this project not only supports multiple goals in the Berks County Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan, but it also supports the Berks County Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan's vision:

Healthy, vibrant, and economically strong communities encourage and value transportation connectivity. Berks County will be a place where people of all ages and abilities can safely, comfortably, and conveniently walk or bicycle everywhere.

The Carsonia Avenue Improvements Project also meets the County's goals to protect and maintain the current bicycle and pedestrian network, connect communities in ways that support walking and bicycling as viable transportation options, create and maintain safe bicycling and walking infrastructure and support walking and biking options as ways to grow a vibrant local economy.

The proposed improvements help meet these goals and as such are compliant with the Berks County Comprehensive Plan.

Recommendations:

The Multimodal Transportation Fund application process requires applicants to provide a letter from the appropriate planning agency certifying that the proposed project is in compliance with the comprehensive land use plans.

Staff recommends the Board provide a letter of compliance for the Carsonia Avenue Improvements Project.