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August 10, 2022

Ryan Emerson, Director
Multimodal Transportation Fund
PA Department of Community and Economic Development
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 4th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225

**RE: DCED Multimodal Transportation
Fund Application
South 9th Street Reconstruction Project
Cumru Township**

Dear Mr. Emerson:

The Berks County Planning Commission is in receipt of the Cumru Township application for the South 9th Street Reconstruction Project under DCED's Multimodal Transportation Fund Program along with a request for consistency with the Berks County Comprehensive Plan.

The proposed project would consist of a full depth pavement reconstruction of the South 9th Street existing cartway width, which varies between 16 to 18 feet, from the north at the Cumru Township line to the south at Whitehouse Road, within the street's right of way. The existing pavement is in poor condition with a cross-section that consists of asphalt paving that is deteriorated making sections of street considered impassable for vehicles, fire apparatus, and emergency services vehicles. This project would improve South 9th Street making it a safe passage for vehicles and also provide improved access to two (2) gates for the Neversink Mountain Preserve.

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. This letter fulfills that requirement.

The project, which is located in the streets' right of way, is located within the Transportation Network and is surrounded by multiple land use types including Existing Development, Rural Conservation, and Permanent Open Space and Recreation in Cumru Township as identified by the Berks County Comprehensive Plan 2030 Update.

Ryan Emerson
South 9th Street Reconstruction Project - MTF
August 10, 2022
Page 2

Within the Existing Development area, the plan notes that:

“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.”

Within the Rural Conservation area, development is limited due to physical characteristics of the land. Within the Permanent Open Space and Recreation area, the plan notes that:

“These areas should create a permanent network of adequate and diverse open space, park and recreational resources for the use of all county residents.”

Due to the current condition and limited access to the two (2) gates that access Neversink Mountain Preserve, the South 9th Street Reconstruction Project would allow all county residents and visitors safe access to the multitude of trails and connector trails located within the Preserve.

Additionally, the Berks County Comprehensive Plan 2030 Update notes multiple Transportation Goals that would be supported by this project. This proposed project addresses goals such as maintaining and improving the transportation system, keeping travelers safe and secure, supporting regional tourism opportunities, and giving travelers a variety of well-designed transportation choices that are in good condition.

The proposed improvements meet all of these objectives and, as such, are consistent with the Berks County Comprehensive Plan 2030 Update.

The Berks County Planning Commission supports this project and asks the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to fund this project.

The Berks County Planning Commission thanks you for the opportunity to review this grant application.

Sincerely,

Jodi L. Gauker
Chairwoman
Berks County Planning Commission

DBH
cc: Jeanne Johnston, Township Manager, Cumru Township
Joseph P. Rogosky, P.E., Great Valley Consultants