



Berks County Services Center | 633 Court Street, 14th Floor Reading, PA 19601- 4309
Phone: 610.478.6300 | Fax: 610.478.6316 | Email: planning@countyofberks.com

*Jodi L. Gauker, Chairwoman | James A. Adams, Vice-Chair | Christopher J. Spohn, Secretary
Glenn R. Knoblauch | James C. McCarthy, P.E. | Thomas C. McKeon, AICP, CEcD, |
Lee C. Olsen, AIA, NCARB | David H. Turner | Lisa Weaver
David N. Hunter, Sr., AICP, Executive Director | David N. Peris, Assistant County Solicitor*

August 10, 2022

Mr. Neil Weaver, Secretary
PA Department of Community and Economic Development
Center for Business Financing – Grants Office
Multimodal Transportation Fund
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 4th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225

**RE: DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund
Grant Application
Boyertown Borough Streetscape
Phase II Improvements
Boyertown Borough, Berks County,
Pennsylvania**

Dear Mr. Weaver:

The Berks County Planning Commission is in receipt of the Boyertown Borough application for the Boyertown Borough Streetscape Phase II Improvements Project under DCED's Multimodal Transportation Fund Program along with a request for compliance with the Berks County Comprehensive Plan. Phase I of this project was previously funded in 2009 using a Transportation Enhancement Program earmark, and construction followed in 2011.

It is the understanding of the Commission that under Phase II the Borough would like to remove and replace damaged sidewalk and curbing, construct a decorative brick border, add new pedestrian lighting, and add delineated on-street parking with decorative meters and streetscape appurtenances. These improvements are proposed along East Philadelphia Avenue (SR 0073) between the Colebrookdale Railroad tracks and Washington Street, along S. Reading Avenue (SR 0562) between 3rd Street and the access to the Town Center public parking area, and along N. Reading Avenue (SR 2067) between 5th Street and 4th Street. Additionally, Boyertown Borough has requested funding for the on-road portions of the Secret Valley Trail Inner Loop Trail to link neighboring Colebrookdale Township residents with the downtown streetscape improvements in the Borough. This proposed project will extend enhancements from previous streetscape projects and is in collaboration with the future pedestrian improvements initiated by the Colebrookdale Railroad Preservation Trust. The proposed Phase II improvements cost and requested grant amount is \$1,229,796.

Neil Weaver
Boyertown Borough Streetscape Phase II Improvements - MTF
August 10, 2022
Page 2

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 in areas of Existing Development in Boyertown Borough 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, this project 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 Streetscape Phase II project 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. 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: Pat Loder, Borough Manager, Boyertown Borough
Adrienne Blank, R.L.A., Landscape Architect, Gilmore & Associates, Inc.