



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

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December 18, 2020

Michael Hanlon
435 West Hamilton Street
Allentown PA 18101
Michael.Hanlon@AllentownPA.gov

RE: **Street Vacation**
South Fountain Street and W. School from W. Maple Street and South
Fountain Street to West Terminus.
City of Allentown
Lehigh County

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) considered the subject proposal at its Comprehensive Planning Committee and Full Commission meetings, pursuant to the requirements of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). Both meetings were virtual, please see the meeting details below.

- LVPC Transportation Committee Meeting
 - December 17, 2020 at 9:30 AM
- LVPC Full Commission Meeting
 - December 17, 2020 at 11:00 AM

Mr. Hanlon,

The proposed street vacation was submitted by the City on behalf of the Allentown Parking Authority. It consists of vacating portions of South Fountain Street and West School Street.

The portion of South Fountain Street to be vacated is bound by Maple Street, to its northwest, and Walnut Street, to its southeast. This portion of South Fountain Street currently serves as an access street to an existing surface parking lot. Direct access on the parking lot is then provided by a portion of West School Street, the other portion of street to be vacated.

The purpose of the proposed street vacation is to provide Allentown Parking Authority with consolidated grounds for a new parking garage along the vacated portion of South Fountain Street. The new garage will also occupy the vacated portion of West School Street. The Parking Authority currently owns parcels on both sides of South Fountain Street. Access will be provided via a new private alley for the properties that front on Walnut Street.

The proposed plan, submitted for recommendations under Section 304 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, was reviewed for general consistency with the intent of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan*. The proposed streets to be vacated do not appear to adversely impact the accessibility to existing lots and therefore appear consistent general planning principles.

Furthermore, the intent of such vacation plans further promotes off-street parking in an identified Historic Center within the Transportation Plan's Centers + Corridors Plan. The purpose of such plans are to allow for alternatives to on-street parking within a downtown, redevelop an underutilized lot and promote safer downtown streets as an identified Policy within *FutureLV: The Regional Plan* (Policy 5.4), where the document stresses to "Promote development that complements the unique history, environment, culture and needs of the Valley", more specifically this action encourages reuse of vacant and underutilized properties.

Sincerely,



Charles Doyle

Director of Transportation + Data