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February 1, 2024

Michael P. Hanlon
435 West Hamilton Street
Allentown PA 18101
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RE: **Street Vacation Petition
Type Street from 8th Street to its Immediate Western Terminus
City of Allentown, Lehigh County**

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) will review the street vacation petition at its Transportation Planning Committee and Full Commission meetings, pursuant to the requirements of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). Discussions on agenda items primarily occur during the Committee meeting. Both meetings will be held virtually, please refer to the meeting details below to attend. The LVPC will issue a follow-up letter after the Commission meeting should there be any additional comments from the Commission.

- LVPC Transportation Planning Committee Meeting
 - February 22, 2024 at 5:30 PM
 - <https://lvpc.org/meetings.html>
- LVPC Full Commission Meeting
 - February 22, 2024 at 7:00 PM
 - <https://lvpc.org/meetings.htm>

Mr. Hanlon,

The City of Allentown submitted the proposed street vacation application on behalf of Mayor Matt Tuerk. The application requests the vacation of Type Street from 8th Street to its immediate western terminus at the building located at 812 Hamilton Street. This segment of Type Street runs along the west side of 8th Street, between Hamilton Street and Maple Street.

The proposed street vacation petition was reviewed for recommendations under Section 304 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, and for general consistency with the intent of FutureLV: The Regional Plan.

Type Street, at specified location is a dead-end street approximately one car width wide, with no through traffic. The application indicates that the street vacation is sought by the City of Allentown to facilitate a streetscape project that meets the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act at the 8th street crossing.

The petition was not co-signed by the abutting property owners currently utilizing the right of way. It is recommended that the petitioner secure agreement for the street vacation from all affected property owners, including those at 802, 804, 806, 808 and 812 W Hamilton Street.

The City should evaluate the impact on adjacent properties and their tenants. It is recommended that, if not already undertaken, outreach to each affected property be conducted to clarify ownership and the roles and responsibilities in the area if the petition is approved.


Vacating the rights-of-way could affect access to the rear of properties that use Type Street for refuse containers, as well as emergency access via fire escape infrastructure on the exterior of buildings above street level. It is strongly recommended that access to fire escape equipment be maintained at all times, in accordance with any recommendations from the City Fire Department and emergency services, as per *FutureLV Policies 2.2 and 5.1*.

Coordination with property owners and the city is advised to ensure awareness of Type Street's potential change. Responsibilities for utilities and drainage should be clearly defined, ensuring that all parties are informed during the review of the ordinance. It is recommended that utilities, whether above or below ground, remain accessible for maintenance or repair to sustain essential services, as outlined in *FutureLV: The Regional Plan Policy 5.4*.

The proposed vacation of Type Street is not expected to negatively impact current traffic circulation. Pedestrian access should remain as it is currently along 8th Street.

The LVPC values the City of Allentown's consideration of *FutureLV: The Regional Plan's* goals and policies in relation to the Type Street vacation petition.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the LVPC review.



Brian Hite
Transportation Planner

Cc: Patrick Osei, LVPC, Director of Transportation Planning

Aerial view of the area surrounding Type Street, yellow box with blue is the area petitioned to have its rights-of-way vacated.



Image Courtesy of Google Earth

Streetview of Type Street looking west from 8th Street



Image Courtesy of Google Street View

Aerial image provided by the City of Allentown



Submitted with the Street Vacation Petition from the City of Allentown