

15 December 2021

Laura Wiens, Executive Director
Pittsburghers for Public Transit
5129 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA, 15224

Dear Laura,

Our lives are shaped by the design, architecture, and urban planning that creates our built environment.

Design and planning are powerful tools that, when utilized with equity and community in mind, have the capability to greatly improve the quality of life in a city for all of its inhabitants. While Pittsburgh has taken steps towards using planning and development as tools to design better futures, the city also has a long racist history of using these tools to exclude, harm, and constantly displace marginalized communities—especially in historically Black neighborhoods.

We believe that Pittsburgh can do better, and welcome the new Gainey administration as a catalyst for the change that we want to see. The **Pittsburgh 100 Days Transit Platform** is a synthesis of some of the best thinking about how our City can set policies, build infrastructure, and direct staff resources to drive the equitable development and universal access to mobility that we want to see. Public transit is an important public utility and social good, and our City should plan for maximizing its use and its subsequent benefits. To do so, City government must prioritize transit-supportive land use and accessible, safe infrastructure connections.

We celebrate the process by which this platform was created, in which a wide variety of stakeholders, including transit riders, people who are housing insecure, people with disabilities, and design and urban planning professionals such as ourselves collaborated on identifying both the problems and the solutions we want to see implemented. Community members are living experts of their neighborhoods, and we believe that any new project or initiative should be co-created with community members, to ensure that the community feels ownership of the solutions and that public spaces are designed in alignment with communities' needs.

It will take the entire community of professionals, politicians, and advocates working together to achieve the justice and equity that is so badly needed in Pittsburgh communities. The **Pittsburgh 100 Days Transit Platform** offers realistic and implementable actions that are achievable specifically by Pittsburgh's mayor and the administration they will soon build. Through implementing these actions within the first 100 days in office, the new mayor will be able set a positive tone to kick off the beginning

The built environment can create pathways or barriers for economic and social mobility, and can be a vehicle to address or to hamper our region's climate and sustainability needs. As design, architecture and urban planning professionals, we offer our support and our expertise to realize the **Pittsburgh 100 Days Transit**

Platform to achieve those positive ends, and hope to be a resource to the new mayoral administration and the communities it serves.

Sincerely,

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