

evolveEA Letter of Support for Pittsburghers for Public Transit
Pittsburgh 100 Days Transit Platform: Affording All Residents the Freedom to Move

07 December 2021

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

Dear Laura,

evolveEA proudly supports Pittsburghers for Public Transit's *Pittsburgh 100 Days Transit Platform: Affording All Residents the Freedom to Move*. Quality of and equitable access to public transportation within the City of Pittsburgh has implications for the success of residents both across the city and throughout communities all over western Pennsylvania.

The Mayor Can Effect Positive Change

As a firm of designers working both in Pittsburgh and throughout the region, we frequently encounter chronic and acute mobility challenges in many of our projects. As we guide communities and agencies toward realizing the opportunities before them, we recognize that different agencies and levels of government have different responsibilities and mechanisms through which they can effect change. We believe that the Mayor of Pittsburgh, as executive of the largest city and county seat in Allegheny County, has the authority and resources to help our region transform its relationship with public transportation and to foster greater mobility-access and choice.

The mayor can lead with a dual focus on both policy within the Department of City Planning's (DCP) Strategic Planning and Zoning Divisions and capital investment within the Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI). The mayor's office also affords them the opportunity to convene broad stakeholder groups throughout the region to support coordinated multi-modal transportation as recommended by SPC's *SmartMoves Connections*¹ regional multi-modal hub plan on which evolveEA consulted.

¹ <https://www.spcregion.org/2021/07/01/smartmoves-connections/>



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PPT's 4 Mobility Goals are Prudent and Reflect Riders' Interests

Pittsburghers for Public Transit (PPT) has admirably synthesised 4 mobility goals that are reflective of the concerns we've heard from riders on our public transportation projects and community members on our community and business district planning projects. We believe that both PPT's overall goals and the specific tasks associated with those goals are realistic, achievable, and would directly lead to the kinds of positive change that transit riders and Pittsburgh residents are looking for.

- I. We want Mayoral & City prioritization of accessible, equitable mobility over corporate profit and private transportation modes.**
 - Access and equity are recurrent themes that we hear in our planning work because they are direct resultants of systemic disinvestment and misinvestment in our city's neighborhoods. As the new mayor develops formal and informal policies for their administration, we urge them to center transportation and planning around access and equity first and foremost.
- II. We want legislation and zoning that supports transit use and affordable housing.**
 - The form of and mechanisms for new development in our city can have an impact on the level of access and equity in our communities. New developments could transform the city to become a better place to live but only when the regulatory environment is oriented towards quality outcomes that are aligned with community values.
- III. We want comfortable, accessible, and safe connections to public transit.**
 - Every transit rider begins and ends their trip as a pedestrian. We urgently need to ensure that sidewalks, crosswalks, streets, bicycle lanes, signage, and signals foster a safe connection to and from public transportation.
- IV. We want infrastructure to ensure effective and faster public transit.**
 - Over generations, Pittsburghers have already invested billions into our public infrastructure. Thoughtful and cost-effective tweaks to our existing roadways, intersections, and signals can allow for high-quality and reliable public transportation in every neighborhood with a bus route, allowing for greater access to opportunity for riders and greater efficiency for the transportation operators.



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About Our Firm

evolveEA is a nimble, multidisciplinary practice situated at the intersection of sustainability and the built environment. We help individuals, communities, and organizations take strategic action through three lenses of sustainability: People, Process, and Place. Our services include architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, and infrastructure systems strategies; sustainability consulting for buildings, operations, and organizations; stakeholder coordination and engagement; and organizational strategic planning. We're proud to be one of Pittsburgh's leading planning and sustainable design firms with more than 80 LEED-certified projects and with the first and only three EcoDistricts-certified community plans.

evolve llc. DBA evolve environment::architecture (evolveEA) is a certified WBE corporation in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is a limited liability company (LLC) founded in 2004. Our DUNS number is 182069224.

Sincerely,



Christine Mondor, FAIA
President, Principal, and Co-Founder

CKM: emh



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