

## Lancaster Chamber

People | Business | Community

February 7, 2019

The Honorable Tom Wolf  
Office of the Governor  
508 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf,

I am writing to express the Lancaster Chamber's support for an extension of Walnut Street to Greenfield Road within the Greenfield Corporate Center. The Lancaster Chamber's 2019 Pro-Business Agenda has three focus areas, one focused on removing barriers for qualified workers who wish to work and the other being transportation and infrastructure to better move goods, services and employees. With that in mind, we are focused on advocating for the funding of priority projects that provide for improvements and maintenance of projects that will allow the region to effectively compete in the global marketplace.

As a business organization representing nearly 1,600 businesses in the County, we support the construction of this needed infrastructure project to relieve congested roads, better connect potential employees to the Greenfield Corporate Center and allow our community to meet growth objectives. With that in mind, I respectfully request your consideration of the Walnut Street extension for state funding through the Economic Development Transportation Program (formerly the Transportation Infrastructure Investment Fund).

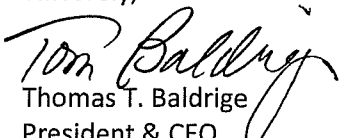
Congestion on the Greenfield Road corridor is recognized as a significant problem, one that Township and County officials have long wanted to solve. The road is the main artery that serves Greenfield Corporate Center, which is home to 157 businesses employing more than 4,200 people daily. Greenfield Road is well beyond its capacity and widening the existing road entails significantly higher costs and technical difficulties. Without a smart solution, our traffic problems will only become more serious.

Sometimes it is the simplest projects that can make the biggest impact – we believe this is one of those times. The Township and the staff of the Lancaster County Planning Commission have considered alternatives and have identified the Walnut Street extension as the most cost-effective and least disruptive way to address the problem. This solution, which uses an existing right-of-way and is within the urban growth boundary, will connect employees to a key job center in our community, while significantly reducing congestion, increasing productivity, and alleviating frustration with traffic delays.

The Walnut Street extension will set the stage for future growth of businesses in Greenfield Corporate Center by providing a direct link to Lancaster City. The extension will reinforce connectivity with East Lampeter Township and help to ensure increased economic vibrancy.

We are pleased to recommend the Walnut Street extension as a lasting solution and urge the Commonwealth to make the investment of \$12.2 million toward the total project cost of \$17.2 million. Your support will allow the local stakeholders to provide the remaining funds to design and construct the project.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas T. Baldrige  
President & CEO  
Lancaster Chamber

CC: Secretary Richards, Secretary Davin, Senator Martin, Rep. Greiner, Rep. Sturla, Mayor Sorace