



BOROUGH OF SMITHTON
Established in 1901

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 13, 2020

Smithton and Scottdale Boroughs Active Transportation Plan and Complete Streets Policy Seeks Public Review

Smithton and Scottdale, PA (October 13, 2020) –

Throughout the past year residents and elected officials in Smithton and Scottdale have developed an Active Transportation Plan and a Complete Streets Policy to make walking, biking, and other modes of active transportation safer, easier, and more accessible for everyone. These planners, residents, and officials want to hear from you!

A link to these two documents is available on the websites of each borough. These officials now want to gather final input from the residents of Scottdale, Smithton and the neighboring communities. Residents are asked to review the documents and submit questions and corrections to Smithton Borough Council at smithtonboro@hotmail.com or mail to PO Box 374, Smithton, PA 15479.

Active Transportation is defined as any mode of transportation that is self-propelled like walking, biking, and using a wheelchair; or it can also be non-motorized like kayaking or horse-riding. Community feedback and ideas from the online survey and comments on the mapping program that launched in May and was available through June helped to shape the plan for improving active transportation in these communities.

The Complete Streets Policy will reinforce the Plan vision and will encourage development of streets in these communities that provide safe, convenient, and comfortable travel and access for all users and transportation modes.

Scottdale and Smithton are placing a high priority on public outreach to review the Active Transportation Plan and the Complete Streets Policy.

Links to the earlier survey and map continue to be available on the Smithton (www.smithtonboro.us) and Scottdale (www.scottdaleborough.com) municipal websites, **along with the now near-final draft plan and accompanying policy for review. Borough residents of all ages, public officials and staff, members of community organizations, and other interested parties are encouraged to review the documents. Responses related to review of these documents will be collected until October 30, 2020.**

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Development of the Active Transportation Plan and a Complete Streets Policy is being managed by a Project Team including representatives from both Scottdale and Smithton in cooperation with a team of consultants coordinated by the Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County. Funding is provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Health through the State Physical Activity and Nutrition grant and Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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Since 2014, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (Department or PA DOH), Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity, has been collaborating with the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health Center for Public Health Practice (the University) in conjunction with the Swanson School of Engineering Center for Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure to increase opportunities for physical activity utilizing the built environment. The program through which walking routes and walking groups have been formed is WalkWorks. To-date, with the engagement of community-based partners, 89 walking routes have been created in 21 Pennsylvania counties. In the fall of 2017, WalkWorks began offering financial assistance to public agencies, such as municipalities and planning commissions, for the development of active transportation plans (ATPs) and related policies. For information about WalkWorks, including the location of our partners and walking routes as well as the funded municipalities, please visit the pawalkworks website.

Specific questions should be directed to:

John Turack

Executive Director, Smart Growth Partnership

www.facebook.com/smartgrowthpartnership

<https://www.facebook.com/SmartGrowthPartnershipofWestmoreland>

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