

214 Donohoe Road Suite E
Greensburg, PA 15601



Phone: 724.837.1402
Fax: 724.837.7613
Email: jdt15@psu.edu
Website: www.smartgrowthpa.org

Connecting Community Places, People, and Their Associations

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 29, 2020

RE: Smithton and Scottdale Boroughs Launch Community Survey and Interactive Map Program

Smithton and Scottdale, PA (May 22, 2020) – While the development of the Scottdale-Smithton Active Transportation Plan and a Complete Streets Policy is not virtually complete, the process for creating the plan is progressing virtually through the advent of a new community survey and interactive map program.

Smithton and Scottdale are developing an Active Transportation Plan to make walking, biking and other modes of active transportation in these communities safer, easier and more accessible for everyone. The leaders in these communities want to hear from you! An on-line survey and mapping program has been launched to gather input from the residents of Scottdale, Smithton and the neighboring communities.

Active Transportation is defined as any mode of transportation that is self-propelled like walking, biking and using a wheelchair; or is non-motorized like kayaking or horse-riding. Your feedback and ideas will help shape the plan for improving active transportation in these communities.

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

Scottdale and Smithton are placing a high priority on public outreach and collaboration to develop this Active Transportation Plan and its accompanying Complete Streets Policy. An on-line Community Survey and Interactive Map Program have been created to obtain guidance on community transportation priorities. Input on biking and walking enhancements, safety and access improvements and connections to existing trails, waterways, greenspaces and community assets that you would like to see in these communities is also being obtained through the Survey and Map Program.

Links to the survey and map are available on the Smithton (www.smithtonboro.us) and Scottdale (www.scottdaleborough.com) municipal websites. We plan for these links to also be accessible from local social media accounts and other sources within the communities. Borough residents of all ages, officials and staff, members of community organizations and other interested parties are encouraged

to take the **Survey and to use the Map Program to provide location-specific input**. Meaningful engagement ensures that community priorities are identified, and that achievable projects and action items are developed. **Responses will be collected until June 30, 2020.**

Development of the Active Transportation Plan and a Complete Streets Policy is being managed by a Project Team including representatives from both Scottsdale 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 the 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 PA WalkWorks 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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Community Development Assistant

Energy, Business and Community Vitality

Penn State Extension, Westmoreland County

The Pennsylvania State University

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

<https://extension.psu.edu/community-development>

214 Donohoe Rd, Suite E

Greensburg, PA 15601

724-837-1402 x84214

724-837-7613 Fax

724-448-2787 cell

Jdt15@psu.edu