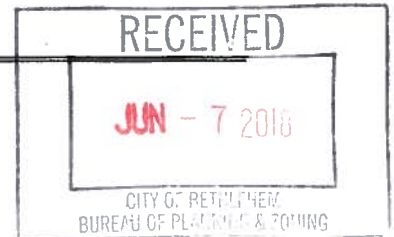


CITY OF BETHLEHEM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM



TO: Darlene Heller, Director of Planning

FROM: Michael Alkhal, P.E., Director of Public Works/City Engineer

RE: Curb and Sidewalk Deferral Request - 1150 Mauch Chunk Road (Laurel St to Elizabeth Avenue) - Moravian College Student Parking Lot X

DATE: June 7, 2018

Moravian College previously received a two year deferral from the installation of curb and sidewalks along a portion of the Mauch Chunk Road frontage of their student Parking Lot X. This two year period is coming to an end and they have submitted a letter dated May 23, 2018 requesting an extension of the deferral until such time as there is a documented need for these facilities.

In the letter, Moravian details the use of the adjacent Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Center (SMRC) and states that the students and staff there do not walk to the facility. In addition, they state that the users of Parking Lot X are long term and use Laurel Street to travel from the lot.


While we accept these assertions, users of Parking Lot X using the north side of the lot would need to walk through the parking area to get to the existing sidewalk facilities at the south end of the lot. This is not as safe as providing specific pedestrian access in the form of sidewalks along Mauch Chunk Road. Also, while there may not be a current pedestrian need for users of SMRC at this location, the general public could be travelling along this portion of Mauch Chunk Road, including towards Elizabeth Avenue, and should be afforded sidewalk accommodations.

There are additional areas in the vicinity of Parking Lot X that should be considered for sidewalks, particularly along Elizabeth Avenue to eventually provide continuous pedestrian accommodations travelling in an easterly direction up Elizabeth Avenue. We believe that the installation of the remaining sidewalks at Parking Lot X would be a step in the right direction, along with further consideration of the other missing segments of sidewalks.

We have discussed this request with Moravian and they explained that they have been applying for grants to extend the sidewalks in this area. Also, they are planning to expand their use of the SMRC and plan to have additional students and staff to occupy the building in the next few years.

While Moravian has asked for an indefinite deferral for the installation of curb and sidewalks along Mauch Chunk Road, Public Works would support another two year deferral at this time to keep the focus on eventually making these improvements. If you have any questions, please let me know.

cc: M. Dorner
T. Samuelson ✓
File

By: 
Michael Alkhal P.E.
Public Works Director/City Engineer