



CITY OF BETHLEHEM

10 East Church Street, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018-6025

BUREAU OF PLANNING AND ZONING

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August 15, 2019

Keith T. Lawler, P.E.
2870 Emrick Blvd.
Bethlehem, PA 18020

RE: (19-002MLD & S) – 19030008 – MORAVIAN COLLEGE STUDENT PARKING LOT ADDITION
– 1321 MAUCH CHUNK ROAD - MINOR LAND DEVELOPMENT and LOT CONSOLIDATION
PLAN – Ward 8, Zoned PI, plan dated March 15, 2019 and last revised August 6, 2019.

Dear Mr. Lawler:

The above-referenced plan has been reviewed by the appropriate city offices. We offer the following comments:

ENGINEERING

Public Works – Traffic Bureau

1. Within the next year, Moravian College has agreed to observe the walking patterns of the students, obtain pricing for sidewalk installation along Elizabeth Avenue, and research available grants for such projects. The College will report their findings to the City by September 1, 2020.
2. See attached letter from Mark Reed addressing this matter.

GENERAL

1. This item will be placed on the August 26, 2019 Planning Commission agenda. Please bring a site plan on a board for the meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darlene Heller".

Darlene Heller, AICP
Director of Planning and Zoning

Cc: M. Dorner
Z. Sayegh
T. Wells
A. Donato, Moravian College

Enclosure



MORAVIAN COLLEGE

August 14, 2019

City of Bethlehem
10 East Church Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018
Attn: Darlene Heller
Director of Planning and Zoning

Dear Darlene,

I understand that the response that was provided to the City with respect to the submission of our development plan for the Parking Lot X extension left one question unanswered, specifically, Question 1 within the **ENGINEERING/Public Works - Traffic Bureau** section. This comment requests that the College provide an approximate timeline or long-range goal for increasing pedestrian safety by adding a sidewalk up Elizabeth Ave. to connect to the rest of campus.

The quick answer to the question is: *"The College will report back in one year with a more informed recommendation. One year will provide the College an opportunity to monitor student "walking behaviors" once the lot and sidewalks included in the current development plan are completed. It will allow us time to provide an estimate of costs for providing additional sidewalks up Elizabeth Ave. and perhaps secure grant funding from PennDOT and the Multimodal Fund."*

Given the complexity of this intersection, I did want to provide some additional information for your consideration.

Please know that student safety is always top of mind, and we have demonstrated that as we completed Phase 1 of this project (original Lot X), and we continue to consider pedestrian safety as we plan for this next phase. For Phase 1, we added sidewalks on Laurel Street and improved the lighting. Crosswalks were added as well as signage and yellow flashing indicator lights. The sidewalks adjacent to the lot were intended to drive pedestrians to Laurel St., and based on the first two years of operation, that is working. Again, our plan has been to try and drive pedestrian traffic away from the Mauch Chunk / Elizabeth Ave. intersection.

For this year, it is important to note that we will be providing shuttle service to that lot daily, from 7:00AM until 4:00PM. Our shuttles will run a continuous loop from the HUB to Parking Lot X to our South Campus and back to the HUB. For those students who need to get to the main campus, the shuttles can be tracked on an app on their phone, so they will know when the next bus will be there!



Please know that the extension of this lot is being done primarily to support the growth in the programs at the Sports Medicine Building (former 24/7 Fitness) and NOT for the traditional undergraduate students. Those students who would be parking at the north end of the lot would presumably be walking on the sidewalks to the Sports Medicine Building and not making their way up to the main campus. For students who need to get to the Sports Medicine Building and must park in the new extension of Parking Lot X, as you know, sidewalks will be included that will connect the existing sidewalk from Lot X to the existing sidewalk on the east side of the Monocacy Creek bridge.

With all of that said, we acknowledge that we cannot always control student behavior. And over the next year, once the changes are made, we will observe their walking patterns and secure pricing for an Elizabeth Ave. sidewalk. Thus, our plan to re-evaluate and submit a follow up report by September 1, 2020.

As a final request, our current development plan includes the installation of a crosswalk at the intersection of Mauch Chunk Rd. and Elizabeth Ave., in accordance with the same City comment (Question 1 within the **ENGINEERING/Public Works - Traffic Bureau** section), and we would respectfully request that we defer the installation of this crosswalk and include this as part of our report next year. Knowing that our goal is to essentially discourage pedestrian traffic there, it seems inconsistent to add that crosswalk at this time.

Please let me know if you need any additional information in anticipation of our August 29th meeting with the Planning Commission.

As always, thank you for your help and understanding as we work through these projects!

With regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Reed". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "R".

Mark Reed
Vice President for Finance and Administration
Moravian College
(610) 861-1312