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For Release:

January 9, 2019

BOROUGH OF CARLISLE

PRESS RELEASE

Carlisle Connectivity Project Plan Calls for Rights-of-Way

To Date, Carlisle Borough Secures Rights-of-Way from 11 out of 14 Landowners for North Hanover Street/Carlisle Springs Road Improvements

Carlisle Borough announced its plan to take parallel paths to secure rights-of-way from two property owners with whom the Borough has been working to amicably settle required easements for the Carlisle Connectivity Project (Connectivity Project). The Connectivity Project is a key component of the Carlisle Urban Redevelopment Plan, a redevelopment strategy specifically designed for the Borough's northwest quadrant where three major manufacturing plants (Carlisle Tire and Wheel, IAC/Masland, and Tyco) once called home. After years of operation, these three facilities closed successively between 2008 and 2010.

In the wake of these factory closings and thousands of lost jobs, Carlisle Borough collaborated with local, county, and state partners to devise a strategy to remediate, rebuild, and revitalize the area. The partners drew upon public input to set objectives of the Connectivity Project to achieve the transportation upgrades needed for the redevelopment.

Complete street upgrades and reconstruction of intersections that were determined to be unsafe, deteriorated, or inadequate to service current and projected transportation needs were slated for improvements. Two noted areas requiring upgrades included the intersection of Carlisle Springs Road/PA-34 and North Hanover/PA-11 to create a safer railroad crossing, and the five-point intersection of North Hanover and Penn Streets with Fairground Avenue.

For almost two years, the Borough has worked cooperatively to obtain the required rights-of-way to make the necessary improvements to these two intersections. To date, the Borough and property owners have successfully reached agreement on eleven out of fourteen rights-of-way.

The Borough's land acquisition firm, Century Engineering, has attempted to negotiate a settlement with the owners of 320 and 330 North Hanover Street (a banking institution and a gas station/food establishment). These final needed rights-of-way would not cause either business to cease operation.

According to Borough Manager Matt Candland, "In total, the Borough needs to secure a combined 0.15 acres from these two properties' road frontages to proceed with the project, which includes the addition of a traffic light at the Norfolk Southern railroad track. These lanes had to shift and expand to ensure that traffic would not sit on the tracks."

Mayor Scott noted, "So far, Century has been unsuccessful in its attempt to negotiate and settle with these two property owners on the Borough's behalf. Given that these intersection improvements are primarily being funded through state grants with mandatory project deadlines, the Borough has no other recourse than to take parallel paths of enactment of an eminent domain ordinance while continuing to work toward an amicable settlement that is fair to all parties."

Borough Council anticipates taking action on the condemnation during its regularly scheduled Council Meeting on January 10, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
