

# RIVERSIDE DRIVE MULTIMODAL REVITALIZATION CORRIDOR PROJECT

## Lehigh Valley Region: Allentown-Whitehall, Pennsylvania

This 3.5-mile Riverside Drive Multimodal Revitalization Corridor project will connect and create a **robust, multimodal commuting corridor** stretching from the City of Allentown through Whitehall Township, Pennsylvania. Providing safe, efficient transportation mode choices by connecting roadways, transit, sidewalks and trails into a seamless rural-to-suburban-to-urban corridor is the driving theme behind this shovel-ready project.

Utilizing existing roadways, an abandoned rail right-of-way and an unimproved footpath, this **innovative brownfield redevelopment** project culminates the efforts of 29 municipalities, five counties, state government, 16 non-profit organizations and over 800 business entities in the **largest single public-private partnership in the Lehigh Valley today**. The Riverside Drive Multimodal Revitalization Corridor supports existing neighborhoods and a traditional manufacturing area, while simultaneously reinforcing existing infrastructure assets critical to the continued operation and growth of the Nation's fastest, and world's second-fastest growing logistics hub, the Lehigh Valley.

In addition, the project will close **Pennsylvania and the Lehigh Valley's highest priority trail gap**, between Whitehall Township and Allentown along the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Trail Network, supporting a continuous **on-road and off-road commuter** corridor, preserving historic and natural resources, and creating new recreational and economic opportunities.

When completed, the project will re-establish neighborhood access to the Lehigh River's natural beauty and the variety of activities it has to offer, after generations of being isolated from it.

### 3 PROJECT ELEMENTS:

- **Element 1:** Hamilton Gateway
- **Element 2:** Allentown Riverfront Redevelopment
- **Element 3:** Whitehall Riverside Drive and Trail

### REGIONAL LOCATION



### PROJECT COSTS:

- **Total BUILD Project Cost:** \$40,638,598
- **BUILD Request:** \$21,306,903  
(52% of Total BUILD Project Cost)
- **Committed Match:** \$19,331,694  
(48% of Total BUILD Project Cost)
- **Other Related Work:** \$15,529,060

**GRAND PROJECT TOTAL: \$56,167,658**

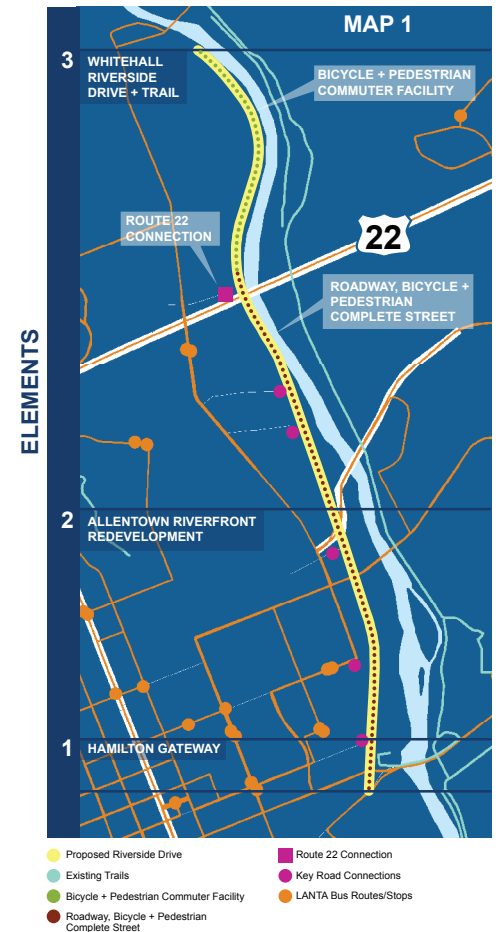
**THE TOTAL PROJECT BENEFIT-COST RATIO IS 2.69**

The September 11th National Memorial Trail is co-located along this portion of the D&L Trail and has received significant support in Congress through Senate Resolution #267, championed by PA Senator Pat Toomey and House Resolution #384, co-sponsored by PA Congressmen Matt Cartwright and Brian Fitzpatrick.

## RIVERSIDE DRIVE MULTIMODAL REVITALIZATION CORRIDOR WILL ADDRESS:

- **Safety** - The multimodal corridor transects State Route 22, the region's most-traveled, congested, high crash highway, which is also a designated critical urban freight corridor. More than 90,000 vehicles per day travel Route 22 and over \$52 million in federal, state and local dollars (Lehigh Valley Transportation Improvement Program) are being utilized to maintain and improve safety on this key highway asset. Riverside Drive is designed to provide local arterial access to the region's largest job and residential center, while improving vehicle flows and emergency access to Route 22. The Riverside Drive project is anticipated to **support the reduction of fatalities and crashes** as identified in the regional Traffic Safety Plan, by offering safe walking, biking and transit connections missing or inhibited by current highway and local road alignments.
- **Collaboration and Resource Leveraging** - There are **more than 20 local partners from public, private and non-profit sectors working together** and sharing resources to plan and implement this critical transportation project. The project also builds on the transit and multimodal work completed under a 2011 US Department of Housing and Urban Development Sustainable Communities Planning grant. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania also supports the project through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, the PA Department of Transportation Multimodal Transportation Program and the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Community Conservation Partnerships.
- **Active Transportation, Public Health and Energy** - Riverside Drive connects on-road and off-road transportation assets to create a seamless, 165-mile Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Trail Network and completes this network's connections into the heart of the largest city along the corridor, Allentown. This corridor is the centerpiece of the off-road commuter network in the Lehigh Valley, as identified in the Walk/RollLV: Active Transportation Plan draft. When completed, the Riverside Drive trails and pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure will offer **alternative travel options and link rural and suburban areas to the urban job center in Allentown**. In addition, the Lehigh Valley is a non-attainment area for ozone, and this alternate transportation corridor will help **reduce vehicular emissions, greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption** as a strategic congestion mitigation investment and through the connection of existing transit routes, walking, biking and driving.
- **Equitable Economic Development** - This corridor is located in one of the Lehigh Valley's low access to opportunity areas, per the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) Equity Analysis, completed in 2018. The equity score for the project area makes the Riverside Drive Multimodal Revitalization Corridor one of the highest Long-Range Transportation Plan priorities as an opportunity to improve environmental justice in a traditionally underserved area. The Allentown Riverfront Redevelopment alone is anticipated to **increase annual real estate taxes from \$120,000 to more than \$4 million** and yield upwards of 2,900 jobs between 10 commercial office buildings and five residential complexes. Riverside Drive, coupled with the new federal program and private sector investment, supports neighborhood, industrial and commercial stabilization, reuse and revitalization with the **capacity to create over \$100 million in new opportunities**.

## PROJECT LOCATION



**ALL RIVERSIDE DRIVE MULTIMODAL REVITALIZATION CORRIDOR PROJECT MATERIALS AVAILABLE AT: [LVPC.ORG/USBUILDGRANT2019.HTML](https://lvpc.org/usbuildgrant2019.html)**