



September 13, 2022

Dear Economic and Community Development Committee,

As you prepare to review legislation for the York Corridor Business Improvement District (BID), I would like to provide some context for the current campaign to establish it.

I have been working as the BID organizer along the Corridor since May, in conjunction with Loyola's York Road Initiative and Councilman Conway's office. Aside from supporting infrastructure and logistics, my main responsibility has been building relationships with business and property owners to understand their interests, needs, and ideas related to the future of the York Corridor.

Since May, my outreach regarding the BID has touched all 125 distinct property owners (who own or rent to 260+ Corridor businesses) via a combination of mailing, drop ins, and an in-person event. There has been excitement about proposed services offered by the BID, especially cleaning and greening and business advocacy, as well as enthusiastic brainstorming about other potential initiatives. While there has also been healthy discussion around topics like the tax surcharge, safety and security concerns, and historical experiences with local business associations and initiatives, it is important to note that at this time not a single business or property owner has come forward to express full opposition to the BID.

It has been my pleasure to network and collaborate with so many dedicated and innovative businesses, and been inspiring to, alongside them, imagine what might be ahead. Everyone seems to recognize the York Corridor as a true asset, a bridge connecting diverse neighborhoods and building community for so many neighbors. To think of it being even cleaner, greener, and more vibrant, as envisioned by the BID, is an opportunity that seems hard to pass up. Thank you for considering the legislation to formally establish the BID and usher in a new chapter for the York Corridor.

Sincerely,

Sarah Ceponis

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