

September 1, 2023

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
PA House of Representatives, Local Government Committee  
207 Irvis Office Building  
P.O. Box 202136  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2136

Ref: HB782 PN731; developments of regional significance and impact

House Local Government Committee members;

I write you today in support of PA House Bill 782, which requires developments of regional significance to thoroughly assess their impacts to Pennsylvania's municipalities.

Mobilify brings holistic thinking to the transportation/community connection. We seek to democratize transportation by lifting up more accessible, cleaner, less auto-dependent modes that allow diverse communities to thrive. Transportation and development are inextricably linked. This is, in part, why we find this legislation so important.

HB782 identifies developments that are too often socioeconomic liabilities for the most vulnerable Pennsylvanians. It's not just the traffic; many communities – especially low-income and minority residents - bear the brunt of their ill effects with little to no upside. They include, among others :

- Transportation-borne air pollution, including fine particulate like PM2.5;
- Increased GHG emissions from transportation emissions and the developments themselves;
- Job inaccessibility to those who most need them because these developments are designed, by design, to be hostile to any mode other than the private automobile;
- Increased lane miles and widened, faster roads to these developments, increasing danger for vulnerable road users and often worsening the problem they are meant to fix;
- Exacerbated flooding risks due to acres of new hardscape;
- Loss of productive farmland and vital but vanishing woodlands and wetlands;
- Long-term unfunded mandates for municipalities ill-equipped to build and maintain the more sophisticated infrastructure that these developments require;

We can do better and have a resilient economy. HB782 is not a panacea, but is a great starting point to addressing these issues. For these reasons, we support HB782. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely



Chris Sandvig, Executive Director