



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

October 16, 2025

Scranton City Council
340 North Washington Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503

Re: Letter of Support for Downtown Scranton Walkability Streetscape Project

Dear City Council Members,

On behalf of The University of Scranton, I would like to share our support for the City of Scranton's Downtown Walkability Streetscape Project. We see these traffic changes as a benefit to the downtown, improving walkability and safety for visitors and residents, including our students, their families, and our employees.

The areas slated for change are adjacent to our campus and as an anchor institution in the city we welcome these efforts. We have long sought to build a strong linkage between the core of our campus and the downtown city center through programming, collaboration with downtown business and other promotional and partnership efforts. We have invested in sidewalk improvements on our own campus and along the Mulberry Street Corridor.

We were glad to help host the initial visit of urban design expert Jeff Speck back in 2018 along with Scranton Tomorrow. During his talk at the University, he spoke about best practices for downtown walkability and streetscape design. His firm's subsequent Downtown Scranton Connectivity Plan informs the project's core changes around traffic flow on downtown streets based on success in other cities across the nation.

In the time since, the City has also conducted additional traffic studies and sought feedback from stakeholders. Improved, more uniform street lighting and greater traffic control and safety measures are among some of the features we look forward to seeing implemented.

We are glad to lend our support for these infrastructure and streetscape investments in service of making Scranton a safer, more walkable city.

Thank you for your attention to these matters and your service to the City.

Yours faithfully,

Rev. Joseph G. Marina, S.J.
President