

## Include public transit projects in urban planning



Bethlehem has installed smart parking meters in the city. (DONNA FISHER, MORNING CALL File Photo)

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**B**ased on what is known about projects being proposed in Bethlehem, one can only assume that our elected officials are ignorant at best, and probably being negligent, in ignoring common-sense urban development.

The population for the entire Lehigh Valley is significantly larger than it was a century ago. And even then, the Valley had adequate public transportation infrastructure.

As our population grows and as congestion gets worse and worse, we are seeing a decline in our public transportation infrastructure.

The city of Bethlehem would rather spend millions developing new ways to generate revenue from parked cars than investing in public transportation infrastructure that will be desperately needed very soon.

Nothing will be felt more than a transit system robust enough to get people out of their cars and reduce congestion while keeping our air clean.

Public transit benefits poor families the most who cannot afford motor vehicles and will need access to jobs. When laissez-faire meets lazy fair, we get what we have now in our ever-growing Valley: lack of leadership and plenty of cronyism. Especially in the city of Bethlehem.

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*Bethlehem*

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