



Allentown Environmental Advisory Council

Kyle Ropski, *Chair*
Tinku Khanwalker, *Co-chair*
Maria Ocasio, *Past chair*
Peter Dent
✉ atowneac@gmail.com

January 13, 2025

To: Samantha McLean
Senior Community Planner
Michael Baker International

Re: Comments of AEAC on SS4A Draft Action Plan

The Allentown Environmental Advisory Council (AEAC), as a member of the Steering Committee for Allentown's SS4A initiative, respectfully submits the following comments on the SS4A Draft Action Plan.

On November 19, 2024 the AEAC had submitted comments on the SS4A Draft Dashboard and Story Map. Our comments noted that the level of sustainability of proposed and implemented treatments should be easily seen by the public. We suggested that a sustainability matrix and score be developed which would take into account factors such as the relative frequency and cost of maintenance of the treatment (higher maintenance costs would receive a lower score), the expected life of the treatment (shorter life would receive a lower score) the extent to which the treatment enhances multimodal transportation (more enhancement receives a higher score), the extent to which the treatment incorporates green infrastructure and native plants (more receives a higher score), etc. We proposed to work with the City's Sustainability Coordinator and Public Works Department in developing the sustainability scoring criteria and framework. The draft Action Plan does not make any reference to evaluating or reporting on the sustainability of proposed or implemented treatments. We suggest the following:

1. The section on Policy and Process improvements be revised to recommend a process for developing sustainability criteria and a framework for evaluating and scoring the relative sustainability of alternative treatments
2. That the public, interactive dashboard include information on the sustainability score of any proposed or implemented treatment.

We are grateful for this opportunity to provide our input

Submitted by the Allentown EAC