



Lehigh proposes a number of benefits to the closing of Packer Ave.

The Bethlehem Gadfly | Lehigh University, Southside | January 27, 2020

 *Latest in a series of posts about Lehigh University and the Southside* 

Brent Stringfellow, a Lehigh University Vice President

https://youtu.be/zIaot_f3X1k

Lehigh believes that there are a “number of benefits” in the closing of this section of Packer Ave.

The closing of this section of Packer Ave. would:

1) Enhance safety:

- huge crossing point
- 1000 at peak times
- bad at dusk

2) Better connect Lehigh with South Bethlehem to have more foot traffic supporting the businesses:

- use this to better connect Lehigh with the Southside
- reknitting parts of the north campus with the central core campus (flagpole area)
- opportunity to shift the center of gravity
- which is starting to happen with the construction of the new buildings now going on
- and Lehigh’s renewed focus on activities in Southside Bethlehem
- traditionally Packer Ave. has been a border line
- it is still an emotional border
- looking to put Lehigh closer to the community

3) Improve the pedestrian experience for everyone walking across Packer Avenue:

- walking and biking not only for the Lehigh community but the Southside community as well
- nice way to move in the east-west direction
- push the whole community toward more bike-friendly areas
- tie in as an endpoint to the upgrading of New St.

to be continued . . .