

# Closing Packer Ave.: the true test will be if there is some sort of emergency on Third or Fourth Streets

The Bethlehem Gadfly | Lehigh University, Neighborhoods, Southside | January 20, 2020

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



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**Pilot study: temporary closing of Packer Avenue**

**Public meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. Jan. 23 at the**

**Broughal Middle School Auditorium**

*Nicole Radzievich, "Should Bethlehem close this major street near Lehigh University?" Morning Call, January 16, 2020.*

Gadfly,

Lehigh is concerned with Lehigh. The Mayor and City Council must be concerned about the entire city and, in this particular instance, the nearby Southside environs. This isn't the first time the University has floated this idea, and in the past the concept was panned by public safety officials. Today it is more than that, especially given increased

development throughout the Southside and the resultant traffic gridlock that results along the Third and Fourth Streets corridors at various times. Packer Avenue has provided a third east/west option for drivers on the Southside, and with increased congestion elsewhere the jury is still out on how beneficial this would be for Bethlehem, for this lifetime Bethlehem resident. There's a lot more to this equation than what Lehigh University is pitching. The true test during this 45 day period will be if there is some sort of emergency (God forbid) on Third or Fourth Streets that stops through traffic and how the Packer Avenue closure will affect the ability for motorists and commerce to continue to flow.

Dana