

WHEREAS, our infrastructure is the foundation upon which our country stands—it is the backbone of our economy—and we are collectively responsible for securing and preserving it; and,

WHEREAS, fixing our broken infrastructure will create jobs, increase efficiencies, address climate change, and make our communities safer, healthier, and more secure; and,

WHEREAS, for generations, Americans have worked together to build these fundamental systems of roads, transit, pipes, electrical lines, communication systems, and public buildings—like our schools and libraries—and now we must work together again to repair them; and,

WHEREAS, human activity is directly contributing to the rapidly-changing climate and putting additional stress on these vital systems and we need to take action now; and,

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is the third-largest contributor to climate change in the country; and,

WHEREAS, the American Society of Civil Engineers has given America’s infrastructure systems a “D+” grade overall, and efforts to repair these basic systems will create economic opportunity, save money and reduce carbon pollution; and,

WHEREAS, 42 percent of America’s major urban highways remain congested, costing the economy an estimated \$101 billion in wasted time and fuel annually, earning our roads and bridges “D” and “C+” grades respectively; and,

WHEREAS, failing to increase investment in our roads and bridges would cost American families an extra \$1,060 per year through lower wages and increased costs, and cost the American economy 877,000 jobs; and,

WHEREAS, our nation’s water infrastructure, some of which is more than a century old, is bursting at the seams with an estimated 745 to 850 water main breaks every day in the U.S.; and,

WHEREAS, increasing adoption of smart grid technologies—computer-based, automated systems for the delivery of electricity—in our energy system has led to additional investment in recent years and will significantly reduce energy waste and carbon pollution, while creating family-sustaining jobs and making our energy grid more resilient; and,

WHEREAS, high-speed Internet and a strong communication infrastructure are essential for economic growth, job creation, and global competitiveness, and updating these systems is essential to greatly reducing energy use and carbon pollution emissions; and,

WHEREAS, upgrading these systems to meet basic needs and protect communities is an opportunity to create jobs for American workers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh calls for elected officials at the state and federal level to work with Pittsburgh to join together to repair America's infrastructure systems in order to create family-sustaining jobs, ensure our families and communities are safe, healthy and prepared for climate change, and to address climate change.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Will of Council shall be circulated to Senator Bob Casey, Senator Pat Toomey, Congressman Mike Doyle and Mayor Bill Peduto.

Sponsored by Councilman Dan Gilman

Co-sponsored by Council President Bruce Kraus, Councilmembers Deb Gross, Darlene M. Harris, Theresa Kail-Smith, Natalia Rudiak, Corey O'Connor, R. Daniel Lavelle, and Rev. Ricky V. Burgess

Bruce Kraus
President of Council

Attest: Mary Beth Doheny
Clerk of Council

In Council, April 22, 2014