

February 20, 2020

Mr. Earl L. Cooper

President

Everyone Can Achieve, LLC

2010 Woodlawn Ave Apt. 4

Wilmington, DE 19806

Mr. Cooper:

The Route 9 Master Plan's Monitoring Committee would like to express its enthusiastic support for Everyone Can Achieve, LLC's On the Job Training (OJT) Program.

The American Community Survey (5-year tract level data, 2014-2018) estimated the unemployment rate for many communities along the Route 9 Corridor was between 7 percent and 14 percent – higher than the state average of 6 percent. And underemployment of those with jobs is another chronic challenge. According to the same dataset, median family incomes fell below \$50,000/year along most of the corridor. That was well below the state average of \$80,000/year.

Efforts like Everyone Can Achieve, LLC's pilot program to train, hire, and inspire Route 9 area residents directly address these inequities. Your program, open to workers regardless of their past histories, will train and hire them as construction zone flaggers at prevailing wages (around \$43/hour). The program also features life skills development (such as a financial literacy training) and will encourage the upward mobility of participants throughout their careers.

Our Local Hire Subcommittee hopes to work with you to support and expand this effort. If the pilot proves successful, we would like to see all residents interested in going through this or a similar program to enter the transportation industry being offered the opportunity to do so. We also see it as a promising model that can be replicated in other industry sectors.

The mission of the Route 9 Master Plan Monitoring Committee is to help guide and fulfill the recommendations of the Master Plan, which established a shared vision for the transportation and land use redevelopment of the Route 9 corridor. This work will be accomplished through a collaborative dialogue between its membership, which includes implementing agencies, local civic and community leaders, other key stakeholders, and the communities they represent.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at: [bswiatek@wilmapco.org](mailto:bswiatek@wilmapco.org), or 302-737-6205 x113.

Sincerely,



Bill Swiatek, AICP  
Principal Planner, WILMAPCO  
Chair, Route 9 Master Plan Monitoring Committee