DELAWARE VALLEY
SMART GROWTH
ALLIANCE

October 21, 2015

Honorable Mayor Michael Nutter
Office of the Mayor
Room 215 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Re: Expanded Open Streets in Philadelphia

Dear Mayor Nutter:

I write as the President of the Delaware Valley Smart Growth Alliance (DVSGA), a coalition of more than 200 governmental, private sector and non-profit organizations in the Greater Philadelphia tri-state region. As proponents of Smart Growth, we favor projects and initiatives that encourage the revitalization of towns and cities, discourage sprawl, and expand options in transportation and housing.

At our last meeting, the DVSGA board passed a motion in favor of exploring expanded Open Streets programs in Philadelphia, which are currently being proposed in petitions and grassroots efforts. **The DVSGA encourages the City of Philadelphia to study an expanded "Open Streets" program to create new opportunities for alternative transportation, recreation, and business development provided that any study consider effects on businesses, residents and other stakeholders.** We believe that existing street closures such as the Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Broad Street Run and neighborhood festivals should be studied closely for their current economic and transportation impacts.

The Pope Francis Festival weekend was revelatory for many of us. It provides good reason for the City to explore this exciting concept further.

Very truly yours,

Jason Duckworth

cc: Director of Transportation Denise Gorn
City Council President Darrell L. Clarke