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Norley on the mark for emphasizing public transportation need in West Chester

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Thank you to West Chester Mayor, Jordan Norley, for his Feb. 28, 2021 guest column supporting efforts to return rail service to West Chester along the SEPTA Media-Elwyn line.

Investing in enhanced public transportation, Chester County will cut carbon pollution that contributes to climate change by reducing traffic congestion. It will also reduce the need for expensive highway expansion and provide an easier way to travel to and from Philadelphia for business and pleasure.

A 2018 PENNDOT-funded study found that restoration of rail service to West Chester is feasible and warranted by the data gathered for the study. Currently, our committee is pursuing a regional economic study to demonstrate the potential for an economic boon to communities and businesses along the former R3 line. Stops to be added from Wawa, now renamed Middletown, include Cheyney, a site of increased economic activity at the University; Westtown, not far from Westtown School; Niels Street, used by West Chester University students; with the terminus at Market Street in West Chester Borough. With increased ridership, additional stops along the Media-Elywn line could be reopened.

Thank you, Mayor Norley, for highlighting the importance of returning public transportation to our area. As previous Daily Local News articles have noted, cooperation is required across multiple counties, municipalities, and government agencies. Media attention to our efforts will help to engender the cooperation necessary to see these efforts realized.

Jo Ann P. Kelton

West Chester

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