



September 15, 2023

Contact: Richard Hooper
rhooper@downtownpittsburgh.com

NEW 'PITTSBURGH POTTY' PROGRAM LAUNCHED, BRINGING MUCH-NEEDED TEMPORARY PUBLIC RESTROOMS TO DOWNTOWN PITTSBURGH

- **SIX-MONTH PILOT PROGRAM WILL BRIDGE PUBLIC RESTROOM NEED WHILE EFFORTS TO BRING PERMANENT FACILITIES TO DOWNTOWN CONTINUE**
- **TEMPORARY PUBLIC RESTROOM FACILITIES WILL BE INSTALLED AT TWO PROMINENT DOWNTOWN LOCATIONS IN EARLY SEPTEMBER, AND WILL BE OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK**
- **FIRST RESTROOM OPENS TO THE PUBLIC ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 AT GATEWAY CENTER T STATION**
- **'PITTSBURGH POTTY' RESTROOMS WILL SUPPLEMENT EXISTING PUBLIC RESTROOMS AROUND THE CITY AND WILL BE SERVICED AND CLEANED DAILY**

Downtown Pittsburgh –A six-month pilot project aimed at addressing the urgent need for public restrooms in Downtown Pittsburgh is launching with support from the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, along with the Downtown business and property owner community. The **Pittsburgh Potty Initiative** will install two temporary public restroom trailers in Downtown, as part of a series of measures to make Downtown more welcoming. These facilities will be managed daily by the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership.

“Public restrooms are an often overlooked but essential part of creating a welcoming environment for the thousands of people who come into Downtown every day.” said PDP President and CEO Jeremy Waldrup. “These new facilities are a step in addressing a key public health and hygiene issue and will help drive longer-term solutions that make Downtown a more inviting place for visitors, workers and residents.”

“For too long Downtown Pittsburgh has been without clean and safe public bathrooms,” said Mayor Ed Gainey. “I’m proud of the work we have done with the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership in this new pilot project to bring public restrooms back to the Golden Triangle. Everyone deserves to have a safe, clean, and reliable place to use the restroom and we are excited to have the opportunity to provide this service to all who live, work, and play Downtown.”

The pilot program will provide convenient and comfortable public restrooms at **two prominent locations**: the first will officially open at 1pm today, Friday, September 15, at the Gateway Center T Station Plaza at Stanwix and Liberty Avenue and the second will open next week at Smithfield St. and Strawberry Way. The Gateway Center facilities will host three restrooms, one being ADA accessible, and the Smithfield Street facilities will include two restrooms. Each restroom will be equipped with running water, electricity, lighting, and adjustable heating and cooling for Pittsburgh’s varied weather conditions.

The temporary public restrooms will be **open and attended seven days a week**, from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Each location will undergo regular servicing, cleaning and monitoring by PDP team members, as well as be supported by Outreach and Public Safety providers from the City, County and non-profit community.

Support for this project is being provided by the corporate community and part of the allocation announced last month to commit **at least \$2 million in corporate and philanthropic support** to advance initiatives that will improve the cleanliness and vitality of Downtown. “The private and philanthropic communities are pleased that a portion of their \$2 million commitment is supporting public restrooms,” said Allegheny Conference CEO Stefani Pashman. “This is only one in a series of nearer-term investments that will position Downtown Pittsburgh for further reimagination, revitalization and ultimately its bright future as the signature Main Street of the entire region.”

“This announcement is another great example of the challenges that can be met when we all work together,” said Rich Fitzgerald, Allegheny County Executive. “Thanks to this collaborative effort between corporations and the nonprofit community, this pilot program will allow us to determine if this amenity is helpful and useful to Downtown’s continued revitalization.”

These restrooms are meant to serve as a bridge as the Building Owner and Managers Association (BOMA) works with the City to create more permanent facilities in Downtown Pittsburgh. “We believe adding facilities like these and other permanent accommodations in the future is important to ensure a clean and enjoyable experience for our residents and visitors,” said Lynette Stevens Smyth, BOMA Executive Director.

The PDP launched [a new webpage](#) with details on the “Pittsburgh Potty,” as well as a directory of other public restrooms located in various buildings throughout Downtown, including the Carnegie Public Library, Allegheny County Courthouse, the City County Building and Point State Park.

Learn more about the “Pittsburgh Potty Initiative” and other public restroom options in Downtown here: <https://downtownpittsburgh.com/restrooms/>

About the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership

Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership (PDP) is a dynamic, nonprofit organization comprised of business and community leaders, property owners, civic organizations, foundations and residents who provide energy, vision and advocacy for Downtown Pittsburgh. Working collaboratively with its partners, the PDP strives to create a positive Downtown experience for residents, workers and visitors alike. The PDP's strategic initiatives include clean and safe services, transportation, and economic development and advocacy. For more information, visit www.DowntownPittsburgh.com, follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/downtownpitt> and “like” us on Facebook.

###