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Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto wants to focus on development, not politics in 2nd term



BOB BAUDER ([MAILTO:BBAUDER@TRIBWEB.COM?SUBJECT=RE: PITTSBURGH MAYOR BILL PEDUTO WANTS TO FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENT, NOT POLITICS IN 2ND TERM STORY ON TRIBLIVE.COM](mailto:bbauder@tribweb.com?subject=re:pittsburgh%20mayor%20bill%20peduto%20wants%20to%20focus%20on%20development%20not%20politics%20in%202nd%20term%20story%20on%20triblive.com))  (<https://twitter.com/BobBauder>) |

Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2018, 4:54 p.m.

During his inauguration Wednesday, Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto plans to outline goals for his next term, including a partnership with major nonprofits and corporations for funding several major initiatives.

Peduto, 53, would not identify the projects, saying he was saving details for his inaugural address, but he has pointed to nonprofits and corporations as potential funders of affordable housing and universal preschool education.

Voters elected Peduto of Point Breeze in November to a second four-year term. His inauguration ceremony is scheduled to start at noon Wednesday at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum in Oakland. It is open to the public. Gov. Tom Wolf is scheduled to attend.

“The idea is not writing a check to city government, but a shared vision of what we can work on together and then to recruit others into the initiative as well,” Peduto said. “The inauguration will provide an opportunity to look at the issues that have been discussed as the major initiatives that need a coordinated effort. During the first quarter of 2018, there will be a series of meetings ... that will provide the opportunity for public input in helping to shape those issues further.”

He said options for funding the initiatives over a dozen years would also come out in 2018.

Since taking office as mayor in 2014, Peduto has sought funding from tax-exempt nonprofits, including the “Big Four” — UPMC, the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University and Highmark — which own a sizable chunk of city real estate. He has yet to reach an agreement, but said he has been meeting regularly with university and corporate leaders over several months.

Major changes are on the horizon for Pittsburgh over Peduto's next four years.

The city is likely to leave state financial oversight under state Act 47 in 2018 after more than 14 years, and changes are afoot in City Council.

Council is set to elect a president Wednesday and later schedule a special election to fill a seat being vacated by Dan Gilman of Squirrel Hill, who is leaving to become Peduto's chief of staff. A new member — Anthony Coghill of Beechview — will be sworn in to replace Councilwoman Natalia Rudiak of Carrick, who did not run for re-election.

Peduto said he is backing Gilman's Chief of Staff Erika Strassburger for Gilman's District 8 seat. One other candidate — Sonja Finn of Point Breeze, head chef and owner of Dinette in East Liberty — also said she will run.

“My goal is that we get past who the (council) president is for the next two years and we all work together on trying to coalesce around big initiatives,” he said. “I think it's a critical time in this city's history, and the politics of who gets to preside over meetings is minor compared to the opportunities that we have.”

One of them is providing housing for Pittsburgh's homeless. The mayor said he would like to model a program after one for homeless veterans in which the city, Allegheny County and nonprofits have provided housing within 90 days.

Other changes Peduto sees coming:

- Development of 700 acres of woodland in Hays into a “passive park” with about 10 percent of the land dedicated to housing. Peduto said city real estate taxes from any housing on the site would go toward providing universal preschool.
- Development of a 13-acre former industrial property next to the North Shore's Rivers Casino. Washington County-based Millcraft Investments is planning a “nearly half-billion dollar” project that includes offices, housing, shops and a large Ferris wheel. Peduto is a fan of the Ferris wheel, which was invented in Pittsburgh.

“Because of the way that the river is and the way that it juts out right by the West End Bridge, I think it would give a really unique view that few Pittsburghers have seen on the Golden Triangle,” he said.

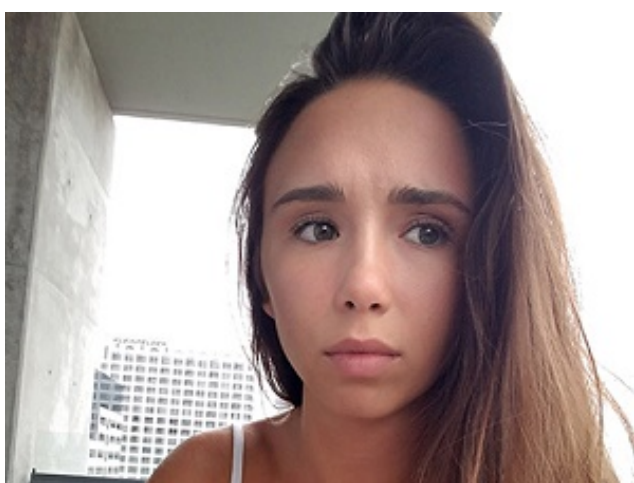
- Development of an urban farm on the site of the former St. Clair Village.
- Long awaited construction on the former Civic Arena property in the Lower Hill District.
- Paving and infrastructure improvements on Carson Street through the South Side.

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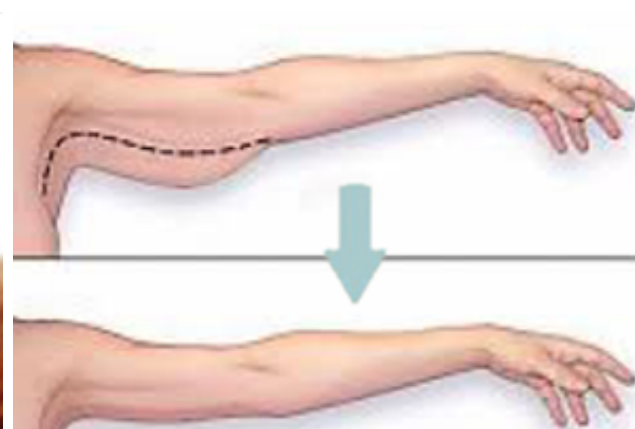
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Roxanne Macel

I was back to Pittsburgh over the holidays and was shocked at the road infrastructure in the city and county. Instead of spending money on ferris wheels and passive parks money should be spent on updating an old road system. Gas in Pennsylvania in second highest in the country, where is that money going. No away is Amazon coming to Pittsburgh when you have to travel on a narrow two lane road from the airport to the city. Pittsburgh looked old.

Like · Reply · 2 · 3w



Paul Alessio · University of Pittsburgh

279 was essentially reconstructed from the city to Camp Horne Road over the past 2 years, as was the Liberty Bridge. This was a result of the gas tax increase passed under Gov Corbett.

Like · Reply · 3 · 3w



Dan Morgan

Paul Alessio All that does is maintain obsolete infrastructure. It does absolutely nothing to update and/or modernize the regional road network which has been obsolete since it was built (with the exception of 279 North beginning in the North Side). Unfortunately our local and regional leaders (and I use the term very loosely) have killed all new road initiatives and have doomed the area to a slow death via strangulation. So while Cleveland has mutiple 6 - 8 lane access roads, we have zero. Thanks liberals and Democrats!

Like · Reply ·  1 · 3w



Paul Alessio · University of Pittsburgh

Dan Morgan I worked and commuted to Cleveland for a year and I am familiar with Cleveland roads. When the land is flat, like around Cleveland, one can construct divided highways with 300 feet wide right of ways like I-480 from Streetsboro to Brooklyn Heights. Not so much in Pittsburgh. Every road is shoved into a narrow valley or cut out of the side of a hill, making it more expensive to construct. Further, it is shown that when you build more lanes, people move further from the city and jam the freeway lanes you just built in a short time period. Not very sustainable or efficient.

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John Zoe

...how about heated bike lanes to encourage riding during the cold months?...(and maybe a tricycle lane to initiate the young to join in on the fun)...

Like · Reply ·  1 · 3w



Chris Osterhus · Waynesburg College

I'm surprised that the bike lanes aren't completely enclosed during the cold months 😊

Like · Reply ·  1 · 3w



Joe Nastasi · Albert Gallatin Area Senior High School

It's only going to get worse under Mayor Bikelane, you don't need more "affordable housing" how about creating jobs so they don't need affordable housing. Give, give & give some more, that keeps the votes coming in.

Now he wants to make Pittsburgh a sanctuary city, get ready for MS13 gangs they always follow. He'll give them affordable housing also

Like · Reply ·  1 · 3w



Dan Morgan

Peduto has been lying and promising agreements with non-profits since his first campaign. Obviously he has failed, so the Democrats have elected him again! He has also failed to address the union pension debt of hundreds of millions of dollars. But, on the upside, he still dumps tens of thousands of gallons of raw sewage into our rivers annually. Yep, glad we elected this guy!

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