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Molly Henderson's Tour de Downtown Lancaster

Saturday, November 3, Commissioner Molly Henderson strolled through downtown Lancaster with a group of supporters and Lancaster Newspapers' reporter Helen Adams, discussing city-county supported heritage and culture projects designed draw economic development to the heart of Lancaster County.

The walk began at the gleaming and well underway Pennsylvania Academy of Music building, which received a critical \$1 million grant from the County, and will open in the Spring of 2008.

"This facility will bring world-class musicians to downtown Lancaster." said Henderson. "Revitalization of this sort makes Lancaster a place where people will not only want to visit, but to live. Students and artists from around the world will use this facility."

From there the group walked the half block the Lancaster Heritage Museum. Henderson is the County representative on the Heritage Museum Board which receives funding from the County. The new addition to the Quilt Display will be unveiled soon along with a real old fashioned ice cream parlor.

The Central Market was the next stop. Now overseen by the Central Market Trust, the County has infused almost \$400,000 into studies and capital improvements to begin a major overhaul of one of the true gems of Lancaster County.

Henderson also led the group up to the site of the former Watt & Shand building, now the site of the \$170 million convention center/hotel project. Henderson said, "I am very pleased with the recent agreement between the Convention Authority and the County prioritizing the hotel tax and protecting the taxpayer."

At Lancaster Square, Commissioner Henderson pointed out that the renovation of the 150 North Queen Building would keep 800 County employees downtown and provide cornerstone of the long-awaited Lancaster Square redevelopment. The County funded studies concerning the privately funded Binns Park project in Lancaster Square. At Lancaster Square Henderson discussed some of the other County-supported projects in the City of Lancaster, including a \$1.2 million for the Public Safety Commission, \$1 million for Clipper Magazine Stadium, another million dollars for the Northwest Corridor, and transportation investments.

Commissioner Henderson said, "I have recognized that it is in the best interests of all Lancaster County taxpayers that the heart of the County, the seat of the government, is thriving. The projects I have supported are helping to revitalize our beautiful 'Red Rose City.' I look forward to continuing to work with the City on these and other projects.