

**PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, April 24, 2017**

The Public Works and Economic Development Committee met Monday, April 24, 2017 at 6:45 PM in the Council Chambers at the Knisely Centre. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Resolution 22-2017 and proposed Resolution 23-2017

In attendance were Public Works and Economic Development Committeepersons:

*Committee Chairperson: Mr. Dean Holland
Committee Members John Zucal and Cheryl Ramos
Committee Alternate: Kelly Ricklic*

Guests were:

*Mayor Joel Day,
Law Director Marvin Fete,
Service Director Ron McAbier,
Safety Director Greg Popham
President of Council Sam Hitchcock
Council Clerk Julie Courtright
Councilperson Mrs. Aimee May
Councilperson Mr. Darrin Lautenschleger
Erin Begue and Nate Quicksall with W.E. Quicksall and Associates
Mr. Harry Matter with Civil Design and Engineering
Audience Members included Mrs. Joy Dawson, Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Wells and family, Mr.
and Mrs. Ryan Range*

Public Works and Economic Development Committee Chairperson, Dean Holland called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

Mr. Holland thanked everyone for being in attendance and announced that he would like to begin with the topic of the off-ramp on U.S. 250.

Mr. Holland yielded the floor to Christopher Varcolla, Traffic Engineer for ODOT District 11 who made the following statement:

The Department of Transportation is asking for consent legislation for our project that we're doing at the New Philadelphia Interchange. What we're planning on doing is to add a right turn lane on the south and northbound exit ramps from I77, and also adding a right turn lane on SR 39 coming in to Dover. We're also expanding the Park and Ride at that interchange area, and will be providing some sidewalks basically from where the Eagle Truck Stop entrance is all the way down to the US 250 ramps, so we'll be adding sidewalks where there are no sidewalks right now. We're here tonight to discuss the need for consent legislation from the City to begin the project right away. There is no cost to the City for our work and no cost to the City for the project. There was an earmark to bill this job.

Mr. Holland made the following statement:

The Committee has drawings from the Ohio Department of Transportation and it's highlighted on both drawings as to the very small segments that are effected that are within the City of New Philadelphia. (Mr. Holland asked Mr. Varcolla if we were on a time constraint, Mr. Varcolla said we're far enough ahead of the schedule that there is no time constraint.)

Mrs. Ramos had the following question:

You're asking for consent legislation, correct?

Mr. Varcolla had the following response:

That's correct.

**MRS. RAMOS MOTIONED FOR PROPOSED ORDINANCE 7-2017 ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA FOR THREE READINGS
MR. ZUCAL SECONDED THE MOTION
3 YEAS
ORDINANCE 7-2017 WILL BE PLACED ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA FOR THREE READINGS**

Mr. Holland made the following statement:

The second item we'll be discussing is the Transportation Alternative Program through the Department of Transportation for Lakeview Rd. and Park Land Dr. Improvement Projects. We should have new drawings reflecting the project and a change from the previous drawing.

Mr. Zucal had the following statement:

A couple of issues have come up since the last meeting. Corey Brenton, a New Philadelphia resident who I represent in Ward 2 wanted to make sure that he shared again that anything that could be done, not necessarily as a part of his specific project, but as a tandem project to that, that any type of sidewalks that would help out that would allow that area, and I know we're battling some issues with coming off 7 Mile Drive, which can be problematic. Again, he's asking for some consideration as to what could possibly be done in a good healthy study to see if there is any way that we could potentially put in some sidewalks that would connect all that together.

Mayor Day had the following response:

I intend to look at this whole area because of the amount of foot traffic that we have in the Summertime, so yeah we'll definitely take that into consideration as we look. Parklane Dr. is another one that we need to take a look at. Maybe that will be the next phase from this project.

Mr. Zucal had the following response:

Perfect because that's the other request I had, it's from the neighbors on Parklane Dr. You can see there's a paving project there as well a potential for the sidewalk so that we had that whole loop taking care of. A number of people in my ward have expressed desires that maybe that could be a part of a paving project that's done in tandem. Now we've pretty much taken care of a lagoon area and done some things that need to be taken care of. The last part, to the Mayor and Service Director, the idea of the parking has been removed but there's a lot of feedback in regards to that too. Many folks felt that it wasn't a good idea, especially a day after we had an accident on the hill which probably helped seal that deal so again I'm glad to hear that's being considered and I know all involved who've expressed a desire and will appreciate some study there of that project.

Service Director McAbier made the following comment:

The Parklane Dr. issue that's been out there, Mr. Ricklic can speak to it, how many leaks we've had out there and the pavement is laid back in the same soil so it's a bigger job. There's no way we can go out there and pave that until we replace that waterline.

Mr. Zucal had the following response:

Part of the reason that was brought up was Larry Gibbs. Larry has been out there for a long, long time and that's what Larry has always said that there's an aquifer or something there, he didn't know what, but there's something there that causes a lot of water which has lead to deterioration of the pavement over the years. He asked if we could consider having some type of effort made to put the pavement in the same time and then consider how we could make that a safer place for all involved because if you drive down there you see what he means.

Mr. Ricklic had the following comment:

They tried the membrane under the asphalt but I think that was not successful either. They tried things but I think the whole study of soil samples is very needed in that area.

Chairman Holland made the following statement:

I would point out that the total cost of the project, because of the removal of the parking area, has been reduced from \$579,800.00 to \$544,900.00 and the City's portion has also been reduced from \$109,500.00 to \$77,100.00, that's the local share.

A New Philadelphia Resident who resides on Valley Rd. had the following comment:

Thank you for considering this because I know that the concern is parking with bigger events at the park and football games and people walking in the middle of the street when it's dark and cars trying to maneuver, but for the residents of this neighborhood it's amazing how we've become a thoroughfare between 7 Mile Dr. and Wabash. People avoiding the light and whipping through and there's no speed bumps or anything. They are going around that corner which is a blind corner at a lot of speed, especially if they're coming down off 7 Mile Dr. So just us going for a walk. The other day I was pushing a stroller and literally had to push myself into the grass because this truck came flying by and didn't budge at all. So with all the traffic, just the people that live there having a sidewalk, it would just be a wonderful safety issue. Even last weekend there were two trucks that were chasing each other because it's like a circle there and a driver can build up a lot of speed.

8-year-old Lilyanna Wells read the following statement:

Please help us get sidewalks so we can be safe. My brothers, sisters, and friends in the neighborhood would like to ride our bikes and walk to the park. We can't even play safe in our front yard!! The cars go way too fast on our road. Thank you for listening and working hard to keep us safe. And I am only 8 years old!

Love,

Lilyanna Wells!!

Mr. Bill Weisgarb of New Philadelphia had the following comment:

I also live in that neighborhood. From a general emotional appeal, I've lived here my whole life, rode my bicycles around that area when I was a kid and it was not safe then. As an adult, as a resident who lives here, it's definitely not safe now. Increased activities on the stadium side when things let out and it's dark, New Phila's color is red and black so there's a lot of black clothing which is hard to see at night. There's cars parking on both sides. If you were to try to walk through there with yourself, let alone a kid it's extremely dangerous, and I appreciate this project as a possibility, it's extremely important to me. The other thing is in general the activities around the park are going to increase with Memorial Day, the 4th of July, all the festivals, football home games, so whatever you can do is very much appreciated.

Mr. Zucal had the following reply:

I'm very supportive of the fact that we need those sidewalks because I think sidewalks in any community make it safer. I think too we have to recognize that the issues we're dealing with concerning excessive speed in that area still will be an issue whether you have sidewalks or not. Anything that we can do from the safety standpoint to ensure that traffic laws are being withheld and people are driving safely and cautiously through a neighborhood where young children live and where people are going to and from events. I think that too needs to be part of an overall safety plan as well for that area that we just don't have a false sense of security. The sidewalks won't solve the problem but it will help. We also need to do our part by keeping speeds down.

Mr. Ryan Range of 1286 Lakeview Rd. had the following comment:

I live in the house right on the blind curb. It's a very dangerous curb. We've lived there for two years now and that's the first thing we found out about living in that house that cars fly coming down off 7 Mile Drive. They go way too fast. I agree with Mr. Zucal that sidewalks might not be the only thing we could do to help prevent anything that could possibly happen in the future. I agree that we could put speed bumps up along with the sidewalks. There's a lot we can do to make our neighborhood safe. People park on both sides of the street on Friday nights during First Town Days and the other events at the park. It creates a bottleneck and it's just dangerous even if you are walking on the side on somebody's front yard it's flat out dangerous and I'd like to thank Erin and Nate for all their hard work on this and the components to the plan, and I'd really like to ask for consideration from the Council for this project. I think it would mean a lot for our community and the young families that live there.

Mrs. Joy Dawson of Lakeview Rd. had the following comment:

We have money young families on our street and I'm thrilled with that but we also have old people like me, and I walk a lot on that road and I've had to jump off the road many, many times because the people who drive on that road aren't watching, and I'm not as quick at jumping anymore either. As much as I want the young people to be protected I want to be protected when I walk around that lagoon too.

Mrs. Katy Wells of 1265 Lakeview Rd. had the following comment:

One thing we have noticed with the increase in texting, even if people aren't speeding they're not watching and so they're texting and swerving. When we're walking several times we've had to jump as well because of the texters. So it's not even just the speed but a lack of noticing while texting.

Mrs. Ramos had the following question:

After listening to their concern with the speed, are their speed bumps included in this project or is that something we need to look at?

Safety Director Greg Popham had the following comment:

A legal aspect of speed bumps, I don't think you can do that on public, private ways and roadways, by state laws.

Mayor Day had the following comment:

Well we can bring it to the attention of the police department.

Safety Director Greg Popham had the following comment:

It's on their list, unfortunately there's so many other things and so few police officers who are handling everything else. It's hard to dwell and dedicate time to actually watch it.

Mr. Zucal had the following comment:

I've been in Dublin, my kids live down there, and if you're coming off Tuttle Rd. in Dublin, right by Thomas Elementary School not far from Tuttle Mall, they actually have speed humps. They're not deep bumps but they're wider, not quite as high, not quite as hard when you hit them, but they are there. If that's the way the City would want to go maybe we could contact the city of Dublin and see how they have been able to do something like that if there's any interest in exploring that.

Safety Director Greg Popham had the following comment:

I just know in the past what was brought back to us when we brought up speed bumps was that it was like a legal issue and it was also a liability issue.

Mr. Zucal had the following comment:

Would the Law Director consider checking that out for us?

Law Director Marvin Fete had the following comment:

Sure can.

Mr. Holland had the following comment:

Resolution 22-2017 needs to be amended during legislation, so moving to Resolution 23-2017. This is a discussion of the Transportation Alternative Program funding for the Bluebell Dr. Sidewalk Improvement Project. The Committee should have revised drawings, three pages reflecting the fiscal location of the sidewalks.

Mr. Zucal had the following comment:

Now we're talking about Bluebell, we're talking about the sidewalks that would be areas coming from the Holiday Inn Express area, is that correct?

Mr. Zucal had the following comment:

It would be on both sides of the road coming from the curb turn on Bluebell next to the river, coming north from there.

Mr. Holland had the following comment:

It would be on both sides of the road coming from the curb turn on Bluebell next to the river coming north from there, crossing the intersection and then on the west side of Bluebell Drive north of East High.

Mr. Zucal had the following comment:

There is some concern from citizens over conflicting information out there, that by adding that sidewalk area it will change the structure of the lanes as we know it now, and potentially reduce some of the lanes that we have on East High so that they are not maybe as large as they are or may potentially be phased out as we travel. I just need to

hear some confirmation as to how those sidewalks will impact existing lanes or if it will impact those at all.

President of Civil Design Associates Harry Matter had the following comment:

The answer to that is that they will have no effect on West High sidewalks, turning lanes, through lanes, anything. It's for just sidewalks on Bluebell.

Mr. Holland had the following comment:

The total project cost is estimated at \$276,000.00 with local share estimated at \$68,306.00.

Mr. Lautenschleger had the following comment:

Last Meeting we had New Philadelphia Police Captain Rocky Dusenberry here. He was very concerned and brought up some points concerning the project that's not involved here. Has Mr. Dusenberry been briefed by somebody and is he satisfied at this point?

Safety Director Greg Popham had the following comment:

I had talked to the Police Chief over the past few days and currently the way things are going it seems to be working as good as it can work with the amount of traffic that's down there.

MR. ZUCAL MOTIONED TO ADD RESOLUTION 23-2017 TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA WITH PASSAGE ON THE SECOND READING

MRS. RAMOS SECONDED THE MOTION

RESOLUTION 23-2017 HAS BEEN ADDED TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA

Mr. Zucal made a motion to adjourn at 7:20pm.