

West Union Street Improvements Project Public Comment and Response Information

An Open House Public Involvement Meeting was held for the West Union Street Improvements Project (ATH-West Union Street, PID 108672) on Tuesday February 25, 2020, from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Innovation Center, located at 340 West State Street, Athens, OH 45701.

The Open House was announced during the Mayor’s Press Conference on February 5, 2020. A press release for the Open House was issued by the City of Athens on February 6, 2020, and a copy of the press release was sent directly to property owners and residents adjacent to the project area and other stakeholders in the community.

Forty-two individuals signed the Open House attendance record. Comment forms and handouts were made available to all attendees. Open House exhibit information was uploaded to the City of Athens website on February 26, 2020. City of Athens representatives also attended a Westside Community Association meeting on March 12, 2020.

Questions and comments submitted at the Open House, through email, or through mail, are below, along with the response from the Engineering and Public Works Department.

Questions/Comments and Responses

1. Please list specific likes, dislikes, concerns, or comments for the proposed project.

<p>Comment: <i>I like the sidewalks, buffer, roundabout, cut-through roads. Don't like bike lane in road – dangerous. Give it separation or create shared – use.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment. The City will review the bike facility.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Like the options for a Herrold St. connector to W. State St. (either - #1 or #2). I've often wondered why there was no connector.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Improved access to W. State St. – major improvement.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: Like the project ... especially traffic circle. Alts 1& 2 would be beneficial.</p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Very pleased to hear of efforts to preserve trees both on Herrold Ave. on the changes made to Union. Overall appears to be a positive place for park users and area residents.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Agree with the project, extension of Herrold Avenue needed.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Glad to see the time and thought being given to increasing access along the corridor for cyclist.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>

<p>Comment: <i>Worried about more traffic on Central (speeding, still a mess with changes made to street w/West Elementary.)</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment. The Athens Police have been informed of the speeding complaint.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>I would be in favor of option 1 for Herrold Avenue. Increasing access to West State St. makes sense. I often cut through that route as a pedestrian.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>I love the roundabout and the Herrold Ave. access! The longer section (not going thru the floodwall) is preferable.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: Easier access</p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Great idea, would cut down on traffic and any safety concerns from the narrow road.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>I think that it would be a great addition and that it would help me cut down on my commute time and additional traffic.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>The cut through from West Union to West State would be great!</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Easy access to and from the fields thru W. State Street is very narrow and congested and hard to get to w/games.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Easy travel for sports, bike path</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Easier travel for vehicles</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Great idea, easier access, weekends especially.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Union Street "bottleneck" is insane. Please fix.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>This project would help with not just ease of access, but the <u>safety</u> of our children and people in general.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>

<p>Comment: <i>Makes it easier for all of us parents to get in and out having one extra way will make it less of a pain.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Creating a second entrance into the W. State ball fields will significantly improve traffic in/out of the complex. It will also improve safety by creating fewer backlogs during baseball season.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>I like the idea, the park is hard to get in and out of. I feel it needs another access.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>It would improve flow of traffic immensely.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Project greatly improves access & safety</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>The W. State Park is such a nice part & highlight of the City. The traffic on W. State and the neighborhood is a burden to the neighborhood & is a safety issue. This would be a HUGE benefit.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Traffic flow around the fields would greatly be improved. Access to fields is limited and would improve the area and the goals of fields.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>It would much improve traffic flow</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Great idea! We need more access to the parks. Very congested during weekends and other high traffic times.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>I think it would make for much better traffic flow.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Traffic will be so much better, also multiple exit routes for safety.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>The 2012 derecho hit at 6:00 and the park was packed. Only way in and out was a disaster. People couldn't get out of the park in an orderly manner. It was chaos!</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment. The proposed Herrold Avenue extension will decrease Emergency Responder response time as well as provide another connect to West State Street.</p>
<p>Comment: <u>Long overdue</u></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>

<p>Comment: <i>I think another entrance/exit would be great for traffic in the area.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>This is a much needed project to relieve traffic congestion on Shafer & W. Union Street.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Help with access to West State Park</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Great proposal</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Shafer Street backs up bad at 5:00, three light changes before you can move. <u>Excellent proposal.</u></i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>The project would greatly improve access to the ballfields, helping with traffic flow and safety at the park.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Like that there is more access in & out of park</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Love the idea of adding a second entrance to W. State.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Love the idea more access to park</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Easier access to baseball fields</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Very much believe Herrold Ave. should be extended! (I don't know which plan is best.) Good idea to improve infrastructure! See <u>no</u> need to narrow road as likely it will need to be widened in areas such as turn to Herrold and local businesses. If a bike lane is done, it needs to be wide enough. Sidewalks a good idea.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>

2. How do you currently use the project area (i.e. walking, bicycling, commuting, shopping, etc.)?

Comments

- *Shopping, drive through to day care, drive to hospital*
- *Commuting from the Plains to the Innovation Center (340 West State Street).*
- *Access to W. State St., Innovation Center. Transportation in/around Athens.*
- *Commuter*
- *I use the dog area and nearby pathways for walking dogs. The dog park pines are definitely a resource to preserve.*
- *Commuting – Ball Fields- West Side cutting over to Columbus Road.*
- *All of the above.*
- *Cycling, commuting*
- *Not a whole lot, but have used it mainly for walking, biking.*
- *I live on Herrold & deal with the Larry's Dog House traffic.*
- *I drive through and occasionally shop.*
- *Commuting*
- *Baseball*
- *Baseball, softball*
- *We commute by car on the road, shopping. We regularly go to the Park via this route.*
- *We're at the ballfield from morning to night on weekends and a few nights during the week.*
- *Sports*
- *Walking, sports*
- *Sports, exercise*
- *Walking, bicycling, commuting, and shopping. All of the above, especially parks/ball.*
- *I do not currently use the area for anything.*
- *Baseball, walking, dog park*
- *N/A*
- *Sports, running, bike path*
- *Running/baseball/dog park*
- *Park access*
- *I work at the hospital, use the bike path and I shop at Seaman's, Catalyst Café, and Larry's.*
- *Walking, bicycling, sports*
- *Yes, walking and baseball*
- *Walking and bicycling*
- *I coach sandlot baseball*
- *Baseball/softball for kids, dog park, walking/running*
- *Sandlot, baseball & bike path*
- *Yes, frequently*
- *This will be our 3rd year playing sandlot*
- *Helping with sandlot baseball, bike path, and my office is located on W. Union Street.*
- *Sandlot*
- *West State Park*
- *Baseball*
- *Bike, walk/jog, lived & will be living out Union within next year.*
- *Commuting*
- *Walking, biking, baseball*

- *Baseball*
- *Baseball*
- *Currently live West of intersection of 682 & W. Union & drive on W. Union very regularly – to hospital, M.D., on way to center of town inc. University. Note: Even though drivers entering the area from the areas to the W. which have higher speed limits, I almost never see anyone driving over 35 and generally significantly under that limit.*

Response: Thank you for submitting comments about how the street is utilized.

3. Do you have concerns or comments about the environmental, social or economic impact of the project?

Comment: *It would be good to have another route to the ball fields, for safety.*

Response: Thank you for your comment.

Comment: *Depending on how much property needs to be acquired for widening streets and allowing for the proposed round-about, it could be an expensive project.*

Response: The City has received funding from the Ohio Department of Transportation, and is pursuing other funding sources. The City will reduce property acquisition needs as much as possible.

Comment: *Good Idea!*

Response: Thank you for your comment.

Comment: *Has there been any thought given to additional bike parking/storage? Has there been any thought to the increased flash drainage?*

Response: The City will review bike parking and storage areas as part of this project, and with business owners along the corridor. Stormwater flow will be considered with design, and flood impacts will be reviewed to ensure the project does not increase flood impacts.

Comment: *I have concerns with noise pollution to surrounding neighborhoods & flooding.*

Response: Thank you for your comment.

Comment: *I am concerned about the speeding that would occur on the completed road. People already drive fast to get to the hospital. Getting out of Larry's is already hard. I think we need a 3 way stop.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Speeds are expected to reduce with a decreased lane width. Traffic control at the West Union/Herrold Avenue intersection will be reviewed in detail during design.

Comment: *No concerns. It looks awesome. (I'm not sure of the need of bike lanes, but if people will use them, then great. If not, it could be a waste of space.)*

Response: Thank you for your comment.

Comment: No – would benefit the community.

Response: Thank you for your comment.

Comment: *Watch the river; don't dump into the Hocking.*

Response: Thank you for your comment.

<p>Comment: <i>Opening a second entry that has more “public” could increase overall use of the space, positively affecting social/community engagement.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>No. It will help that part of town.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>I think it would be a great improvement.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Wellheads?</i></p>
<p>Response: The West State Street wellfield will not be impacted with this project.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>I feel that there is a safety issue with one way out now. In an emergency it is currently traffic-congestion trying to vacate the park quickly.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Would be a huge help with baseball/softball</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Extension of Herrold would <u>decrease stress</u> of drivers leaving the city (or entering) from/to businesses such as Stew Mac, Miller’s Chicken, Innovation Center. (There for positive social and economic <u>plus</u>). Concern a roundabout needs adequate sight distance to function well and there may not be adequate distance.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment. With the roundabout the sight distance issues at the West Union/Shafer Street intersection will be decreased.</p>

4. Do you have knowledge of any archaeological or architectural resources within the project area?

<p>Comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Cemetery?</i>• <i>No. It’s unlikely there are any, unless you consider Larry’s Doghouse to be considered a cultural resource.</i>• <i>Yes</i>• <i>There are wellhead concerns that will need to be followed. Need to maintain the parks resources & help improve/update areas on the West side.</i>• <i>Yes, old canal channel.</i>• <i>As you know, there is an important local historical cemetery at the intersection. Also research shows that long term roundabouts do not function well to resolve accidents.</i>
<p>Response: Thank you for the information.</p>

5. General Comments:

<p>Comment: <i>Slow Traffic! Plant Shade Trees.</i> (Diagram provided on comment form includes a sidewalk or multi-use path with a vegetated buffer between the path and the street and an option with a barrier).</p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Very much favor of having an additional route to/from West State Street.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Great improvement!</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Get 'r done!</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Suggest turnabout be considered for Union & 682.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Would like a round-a-bout @ 682 & 56. Would like storm sewer for water run off on Blueline Drive.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment. The City is reviewing a roundabout at SR 682/56 for another project. The City will review stormwater on Blueline Drive.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Can it be extended to include a Roundabout at light for Union /682? How is drive-thru at Larry's affected?</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment. The City is reviewing a roundabout at SR 682/56 for another project. The City is coordinating with the owners of Larry's Dawg House to review proposed changes to West Union Street and Herrold Avenue that will improve the flow through their drive-thru.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>I'm excited for these improvements. I hope the Herrold Ave. connector happens.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Photos of park crossing. (Photos provided showing raised brick crosswalks)</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for providing photos. The City will consider aesthetic pedestrian improvements during design.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Great idea!</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Much needed project! The road exterior is critically needed!</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment</p>
<p>Comment: <i>This project would only benefit the community and all the parents of the players for the sandlot.</i></p>
<p>Response: Thank you for your comment</p>

<p>Comment: <i>This is a great idea that I hope will be completed.</i></p> <p>Response: Thank you for your comment</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Long overdue!</i></p> <p>Response: Thank you for your comment</p>
<p>Comment: <i>People already try to find ways to use W. Union to access the area, largely through use of the VA parking lot. A second entry will address a demonstrated interest in having more than one way to access the park.</i></p> <p>Response: Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>Comment: <i>I support the project.</i></p> <p>Response: Thank you for your comment</p>
<p>Comment: <i>I think this has needed to happen for a long time. I'm an Athens Native and have grown up at this park.</i></p> <p>Response: Thank you for your comment</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Please get this project done!! Thanks</i></p> <p>Response: Thank you for your comment</p>
<p>Comment: <i>This is a wonderful idea that I fully support.</i></p> <p>Response: Thank you for your comment</p>
<p>Comment: <i>This project is a <u>GREAT</u> idea!</i></p> <p>Response: Thank you for your comment</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Much needed</i></p> <p>Response: Thank you for your comment</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Long overdue</i></p> <p>Response: Thank you for your comment</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Another entrance would help with the traffic as well as reduce the traffic greatly for the neighborhood.</i></p> <p>Response: Thank you for your comment</p>
<p>Comment: <i>I would prefer Alternate 2 project, as it seems to be the easiest & safest path to W. State Street.</i></p> <p>Response: Thank you for your comment</p>
<p>Comment: <i>Traffic is extremely congested with Ohio University employees leaving work & hundreds of people trying to get to West State at the same time. They will have a second means of egress into the park.</i></p> <p>Response: Thank you for your comment</p>

Comment: *We desperately need more access to the park for automobiles. Traveling up Shafer and around Millers also delays any emergency situations.*

Response: Thank you for your comment

Comment: *This is very much needed to help with traffic flow.*

Response: Thank you for your comment

Comment: *First: Decrease speed limit on the project area to 25! This can be done before any project gets underway. Next: Do Herrold Ave. as it would considerably reduce traffic on the intersection mentioned. It would also reduce congestion if/when roundabout is under construction. It would be great to have an attractive entrance to the City of Athens.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. The speed limit of 35 miles per hour meets requirements for West Union Street.

Comment: *In general I am opposed to the opening, but recognize that, with the building of more medical facilities (at OU and OhioHealth) there will be further congest at the Union/Shافر St. intersection and the need to open Herrold "beltway" to reduce that congestion. But I have concerns*

1. *The opening will be expected increase the traffic through the Second St./Central Ave./ W. State street corridor and reducing traffic through the Slaughter Radin street cut though.*
2. *We can expect more traffic down W. State Street to avoid the Shafer/Union traffic light. This will result reduced congestion at that traffic light/intersection, but*
3. *This might result in higher speeds in general around the West State street Park (WSSP). This might even turn out to become a faster route for ambulance travel to the hospital.*
4. *The closing of the West Elementary School will reduce the danger of child/car hazards.*
5. *Will there need to be a removal of on street parking along this corridor?*
6. *Will we need more speed bumps in the area of the park to reduce speeds?*
7. *Have there been recent traffic studies for the intersections effected? In particular Shafer/ West State, West State and Central, and right hand turn on Shafer and Union traffic light? What are those numbers?*
8. *Will the negatively affect the businesses on Herrold Ave.? In particular Larry's dog house drive through?*
9. *Will we need a traffic light or extra lanes at Union and Herrold Ave.?*
10. *The berm between West State and Herrold is wider (and higher) than the berm cut through at the present bike path. Will the reduction of this berm for Herrold Ave. cut increase a possible flood event?*
11. *Will the cut through take any park land> and Do we have any federal funding spent on the WSSP requiring replacing that loss? I recall that was a factor on the East State St. widening.*
12. *Will the increased traffic negatively impact our Wells in the State St well field?*

Response: Thank you for your comments.

1. The traffic flow cannot be modeled. It is anticipated that the route to the uptown area will remain West Union Street, unless local drivers have a preference and knowledge to use streets in the Westside area.
2. It is anticipated that vehicles will continue to use Shafer Street as their primary access to West Union Street.
3. The City is reviewing future projects on West State Street, possibly completed in conjunction with the West Union Street project, to review speeding and safety concerns on West State

Street.

4. The park is a destination area for other children.
5. Parking removal on West State Street is not anticipated.
6. The City will review West State Street speed concerns with another project.
7. Traffic studies have not been completed. Traffic counts were completed at intersections around the project area, including the West Union Street/Shافر Street intersection.
8. Traffic will be maintained during construction, and the end-project will be an improvement to the existing corridor and expected to attract businesses. The City is coordinating with the owners of Larry's Dawg House to review proposed changes to West Union Street and Herrold Avenue that will improve the flow through their drive-thru.
9. The City will review traffic control at the West Union/Herrold Avenue intersection during detailed design.
10. If Alternative 2 is selected, the City will review impacts to the berm with detailed design.
11. The proposed extension will not utilize existing park property.
12. The increased traffic is not expected to impact the City's well field. The improvements project will be reviewed with the City's Wellhead Protection Team.

Comment: *This email is in response to the Herrold Ave alternative access to the West State Street Park.*

I did attend the meeting and received some additional information, however talking to others that attended the meeting as well I have discovered they received different information than I did. This is somewhat alarming as this is very impactful to me.

I live on Herrold Ave and walk and bike in the area on a regular basis. I will lose part of my driveway which will create noise very close to the house. It is a safe and low congested street which is why I chose to live here. The traffic at West Union and Herrold is already congested with the traffic from Larry's Dog House. There are days when it is challenging to get out on to West Union due to the drive through lane and people waiting to enter. My understanding is the biggest complaint is response time for an ambulance to get to the west end. If you open up this road to through traffic to access the West State St park you will continue to have additional accidents. You will be creating additional traffic issues as people do not adhere to the speed limit on this road already. I do not believe the 1-2 minutes they think they will save will not be effective due to the additional foot traffic and vehicle traffic.

Environmentally it is my understanding the hill they plan on cutting into was added years ago due to flooding. You cut into this and will that weaken the dike?

I do not feel by opening this road to the west state park area you will achieve the goals of this project.

Response: Thank you for your comments. A City representative will coordinate with property owners directly to review any property changes with the proposed Herrold Avenue Extension. The berm would be impacted with Alternative 2, and any elevation impacts would be carefully reviewed.

Comment: *Dear City Administration*

Improving the main artery of West Union St. is great. Roundabouts instead of lights are great pretty much except maybe when they are so tiny but I understand limited space is a constraint.

The desire to address safety, traffic flow, efficiency of emergency vehicles and accommodation of large trucks and maintenance vehicle traffic are important to update.

Getting money from outside sources to help defer the costs to our community is also a good move especially in light of our recent large infrastructure levy that recently barely passed for city school buildings and mostly so far it seems to be a race to the bottom in innovation as to what will replace the older schools. This was not a popular increase in our taxes, but I digress.

How much large truck traffic is providing deliveries to the city, OU and businesses off of Shafer and West State Street? Was this looked at as part of the traffic study? Is there really that much truck traffic? Perhaps a truck turn around on West State Street might be better than a cut through road.

The two proposed “cut through” roads for traffic mitigation on West State Street and Shafer Street conjures up a set of other concerns that were also mentioned in the Westside Community Association (WCA) meeting in March of 2020 at ArtWest. The impact on residents of Herrold and West State Street is one concern.

The serpentine option that involves eminent domain of a property owner who opposes this road and has a lot to lose because of it is a bad idea not only for the residents but can a truck with a 53’ trailer really negotiate the curves of this road without having to run over into adjacent properties? A sharp turn on and off of West State Street, the curve off of the elevated railroad bed grade into where there are houses just seems ridiculous.

If there was going to be a choice between the two it definitely should go through the city’s property straight line minimum driving challenges to change grade and negotiate curves. Still, increased truck and regular traffic in a wellhead protection zone also seems foolhardy to encourage that. There already are too many vehicles that operate and park in the wellhead zone potentially leaking or losing automotive fluids and other contaminants there. The city residents paid a lot of money to deal with well 6 and another one that was contaminated by poor judgement of past city employees. That cost was passed on to the entire community for years plus the actual threat of contaminate water.

If a road cut is done and traffic patterns are changed what if this encourages MORE traffic to work it’s way through the West Side neighborhood on Central, Shafer, Second, Rardin, and Slaughter. What contingency plans will be in place to deal with increased traffic through already constricted streets that are hazardous to negotiate with a lot of traffic and narrow corridors.

If this isn’t worked out to a reasonable degree ahead of time then I very much oppose a cut at all because more traffic results in the neighborhood then the quality of life there goes down and THAT is one of the big concerns with this cut through road so please have contingency plans that are reasonable and acceptable by the residents in the neighborhood before going ahead with a cut through road that makes it convenient and “safer” for traffic on West State and Shafer but externalizes costs on the rest of the neighborhood and the residents where eminent domain take place.

If this can't be worked out then please don't do this cut through.

Increased traffic might occur once people know they can cut through to Union Street coming from Columbus Road.

On the East Side, when work was being done on the corridors there signs went up to remind traffic that it was a neighborhood. Will the West Side get timely responses if problems occur.

Traveling through the West Side there are several issues:

Narrow streets with Parking on one or both sides of the street.

When the street is narrow like Second, Rarden, and Shafer with parking on one side it's usually clear enough for drivers on the parked up side of the street to yield to on-coming traffic.

On Central Ave. the street has parking on both side and its just wide enough to allow people to think that they can pass each other at the same time but its a narrow margin of safety and results in side swipes fairly often.

The offset intersection of Second and Central with a stop sign at the bottom of a steep hill lends itself to many drivers not bothering to stop at the stop sign. This also occurs at Clark and Central. and West State.

This is a harzardous route even in off hours of traffic density. The neighborhood needs less traffic not more.

Because its a main thoroughfare there are emergency vehicles with sirens going through there often. This is where I can see some benefit to a cut road if there can be less sirens barraging the neighborhood but they still would have to drive through to get to Columbus Road.

So, I reiterate, the straight cut through road is the best choice of the two but please don't do either of them unless there is a solid plan in place and accepted by those in the neighborhood in case there is MORE traffic and this is a loss for the integrity of the West Side neighborhood North of West State Street and even West State Street itself.

Response: Thank you for your detailed comments. Traffic counts were conducted in 2019. During a single day count, there were 88 single-use trucks, buses, and semi-trucks, counted during peak-hours at the West State/Shafer Street intersection. If the Herrold Avenue extension is completed, specific streets in the West Side Area would be reviewed for selective exclusions, such as signage to limit through trucks.

The alignment of the street and the intersection with West State Street will be designed using a standard design vehicle to provide the alignment and curve layout for the vehicles expected to use the roadway.

The project will be reviewed to consider impacts to the existing rail-road bed, impacts to the water treatment plant, street department operations, park operations, and transit operations. Members of the Wellhead Protection Team will review the project and be a part of any decisions made that may

impact the City's water supply.

The City doesn't have a projection of traffic patterns beyond the impacts of current school operations. The addition of an access point for West State Street will allow City, school, transit, and park traffic the ability to access West State Street without traveling through the neighborhood. The existing businesses along West State Street will avoid doubling of truck traffic caused by turn arounds of deliver vehicles. The Central Avenue West State Street intersection will be provided another exit to the west and may see a reduction in congestion. The City Engineering and Public Works Department will review the streets as a system and will work with the neighborhood, City Planner, Police Department, and Fire Department to review how traffic may be improved. The City is committed to improving safety in the neighborhood and will work to address current and future issues. The Department of Engineering and Public Works is located in the West Side neighborhood and has a vested interest in the neighborhood.

These signs referenced for the East Side were installed during construction of the East State Street Project, and similar signs can be installed during construction of the West Union Street project for the West Side area. The City will also review if other mitigation efforts can be utilized.

The City Engineering and Public Works Department will review the West Side streets listed as a concern with the neighborhood, City Planner, Police Department, and Fire Department to review how current traffic flow may be improved.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by ODOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated June 6, 2018, and executed by FHWA and ODOT.