

## Service Committee Minutes

Honorable Council  
City of Newark, Ohio  
December 12, 2012

There was a meeting of the Service Committee in Council Chambers following the Finance Committee, on Monday, December 10, 2012. These members were present:

Jeff Rath, Chair                      Ryan Bubb  
Bill Cost Jr for Ed Houdeshell      Shirley Stare  
Duke Frost

We wish to report:

1. **Mayor Hall-** announced that Friday they kicked off the City campaign for the United Way. He stated that they offered a lunch to any employee that either signed up for payroll deduction or gave a donation. He proudly presented a proclamation to the United Way in honor of their annual giving campaign.

He introduced the Marketing Director, Ruth Handelman who was present in place of an ill Deb Dingus.

**Ruth Handelman-** thanked the Mayor and City Council. She stated she was pleased to attend on behalf of Deb Dingus and that Ms. Dingus sends her regrets. She stated United Way has been servicing Licking County for 80 years now and they are pleased with the long term support that they have been given. She stated that this is coming at a time when we all know that health and human services are decreasing, however the need for services is always on the rise. She stated that the proclamation comes at a perfect time to allow them to tell the citizens how valuable the United Way is to the community. Many of the services they offer are ones we know and rely upon in this community. She said that the United Way would love to be able to continue providing such services. Last year over 943,000 times people used United Way fund and services, it is a huge impact.

A short video which was created in collaboration with the Media and Design students at COTC was shown.

2. Resolution No 12- 99 authorizing and directing the Director of Public Service to solicit bids and enter into contract for the purchase of certain utility services for the various facilities of the City of Newark, Ohio was considered.

**Director Rhodes-** stated they are asking permission to search for better, more competitive rates for collection, i.e. trash service.

Motion by Mr. Bubb to send to full Council, second by Ms. Stare

**Mr. Marmie-** stated he felt that we should consider contracting locally to support our community.

Motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

3. Brian Morehead and a Representative from Jobes Henderson and Associates gave an update of the State Route 13 Bridge Widening / Reconstruction and Two-Way Conversion project and presented some initial ideas for bridge aesthetics, lighting, sidewalks and landscaping.

**Brian Morehead-** explained that this is part of their public involvement process. In addition to this meeting, on Wednesday they are going to meet with CIC, Newark Development Partners, then they will continue with the development. They have found that the bridge over St Route 16 will be a four lane bridge. The initial design and initial traffic studies have been completed, now they need to think of the aesthetics.

**Ron Maddox-** project manager from Jobes Henderson. He shared a diagram which demonstrated the area they are referring to, which is Mt. Vernon Rd, 3<sup>rd</sup> St, 4<sup>th</sup> St, Hudson, going down to Locus and up to St. Clair. The idea is that Mt. Vernon is single direction, south bound; they are going to make that go back to two lanes. They performed a traffic study which indicates the bridge itself will go from a two lane to a four lane structure. That will include lanes both north and south. There is a through lane on the bridge north and south then there is a turn lane going to west bound 16 and a left turn lane going east. He stated that they see the bridge as an opportunity. He stated that one of the critical issues that they are going to have to deal with is that there is a concrete point on the bridge that is 14'10" from the pavement below and ODOT would prefer if it was 16'. He stated the bridge is the lowest structure between Columbus and 77. He indicated that the problem will be when they widen the bridge to four lanes, they want to widen to the east but 16 is rising rapidly to get over Hudson Ave at that point. Widening to the east will only make that worse, which is something they can't do. He stated that there are options that will be discussed later. He showed pictures of bridges from other cities that have been improved and discussed their designs as well as features.

**Mr. Rath-** asked Mr. Maddox what if you had a separate bridge what the width of the sidewalk would be.

**Mr. Maddox-** answered that it could be whatever we want to be but he recommended at least 10'.

**Mr. Rath-** asked if it was necessary to have a sidewalk on both sides.

**Mr. Maddox-**said we don't have one now. On the west side we have nothing. We have a sidewalk that comes from the north which comes all the way down to 16. He stated that we have nothing on the bridge and no sidewalk from the bridge down to Locust. He explained they would change that.

**Mrs. Floyd-** she lives just north of there and stated there is a lot of foot traffic. She indicated that the pedestrians are on the east side most of the time because they can't cross the bridge on the west side. She feels that it is necessary to have decent sidewalks since citizens just north of that don't have vehicles and she sees them walking back from the dollar store or Wendy's.

**Mr. Rath-** suggested that they make the one sidewalk a little wider, making it a two way sidewalk since we are only going to have one versus two we could make it that much nicer.

**Mr. Frost-** stated that it was his understanding that ODOT is going to build the bridge at a certain cost and if we want to add on it would be considered a perk therefore costing the City. He asked Mr. Maddox if he could ballpark a figure which he won't hold him to of what

it would cost to it build a bridge with a sidewalk going from point A to point B.

**Mr. Maddox-** probably \$400,000

**Mr. Frost-** asked for an estimate if they went with ODOT's design and wanted something a little nicer and a better fence that said something about Newark when coming into town.

**Brian Morehead-** said that this bridge would be similar in size to the one on Cherry Valley Rd, we were around \$75,000.00.

**Mayor Hall-** asked Brian if he remembered a time that they were at ODOT and that a representative said they were not encouraging wording on fences. He mentioned this just to be looked into.

**Mr. Rath-** said the Gib Reese Bridge comes to mind. He posed the question, do we want to do something dramatically different or stick to something like what we did with the Gib Reese Bridge.

**Director Mauter-** mentioned that we have new construction going on, we have a beautiful new bank on the corner and Jerry McClain is talking about some type of signature building across from that. He suggested that those two structures may set the tone for the architecture of the design of the building.

**Mr. Rath-** said he liked the idea of keeping the sidewalk separate.

**Lesa Best-** asked why we needed more clearance.

**Mr. Maddox-** stated that ODOT would prefer to have 16'; he further explained that it is a required design exception if he was to go below 15'6" and they have to give him an exception to the minimum design. He said that they have talked to ODOT about that and they said they would give the City the exception as long as the clearance isn't reduced any more. He stated that the higher trucks are taking a different route.

**Lesa Best-** asked if a fence is required, inquired whether a cage would be a better option over the walkway and how many pedestrians cross over that bridge a day.

**Mr. Maddox-** confirmed that a fence is required; the cage makes pedestrians feel trapped and he did not have a number for the pedestrians that cross over the bridge.

**Lesa Best-** asked if there were regulations on color and whether intentional graffiti is allowed.

**Mr. Maddox-** answered that ODOT has allowed communities to choose, and he believes if you want to apply graffiti you could.

**Lesa Best-** asked if bike paths are being considered.

**Mr. Maddox-** answered that it has and is still on the table.

**Mrs. Floyd-** stated that we need to consider when we are discussing sidewalks that several people go down that street in wheelchairs. She wants to make sure that it is wide enough and safe enough for them.

**Mr. Rath-** asked what he and Mr. Maddox would like from them today.

**Brian Morehead-** replied that they wanted to hear these types of comments. If there are more thoughts or ideas he asked for them to be emailed to him. He said the next two months are the gathering ideas process, once it has been determined what we like they will come back to Committee.

**Mr. Rath-** stated he thought the idea that has made the most sense so far was Mr. Mauter's suggestion.

**Brian Morehead-** said that internally their idea was that they didn't want a standard ODOT bridge. He said they are finally to a point where they can start thinking about what those options are.

**Mr. Rath-** asked when construction on this would begin, completion date and when plans have to be finalized.

**Brian Morehead-** construction will begin 2016 and completed in right around a year. The plans have to be finished by end of 2015.

**Mr. Frost & Mr. Rath-** asked Brian Morehead if there was a budget for this yet.

**Brian Morehead-** said that there is a general number for the cost of the bridge but we have to get through the design work for the final number. He said they think that this is a 4 million dollar project.

**Mr. Rath-** asked if the 4 million comes from us or ODOT.

**Brian Morehead-** stated that we have 2.8 million federally funded through our local MPO for 2016 the remainder will be the City's portion.

**Mr. Cost-** inquired about the bridge being built without a barrier between the street and the sidewalk, he stated that he was surprised one would be built without it. He also asked if it is a major expense and stated that he would just assume that you would want a barrier.

**Mr. Maddox-** stated that if the sidewalk is a major sidewalk the barrier is built, if it is not they don't build a sidewalk anymore. He said that it is not a major expense and that he too would want a barrier.

**Director Mauter-** asked Brian Morehead if the funding allowed for landscaping for the space between the state route as well as the entrance and exit ramps.

**Brian Morehead-** not likely, that would be something the City would have to pay for.

**Mrs. Loomis-** asked about maintenance to the barrier

**Mr. Maddox-** stated that the barrier would last as long as the bridge.

**Mr. Rath-** asked about the effect of salt on the concrete bridge.

**Brian Morehead** –stated the life expectancy for the concrete is 40-50 years. Repairs to the structure can be made without making major structural changes on the bridge.

**Mr. Rath-** asked about drainage regarding the bridge and bridge walls.

**Mr. Maddox-** stated that they try to build the bridge with enough curvature so that the water runs off.

Jeff Rath, Chair