

CITY OF YOUNGSTOWN

MAYOR JAMAE L TITO BROWN



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
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04-04-2019

PUBLIC COMMENT RESPONSE

MAH FIFTH AVE. PID 104659

Public Comments were received on the above referenced project from 2-19-2019 until 3-22-2019. The following is a response the comments:

The 10' wide sidewalk located along portions of the east side of Fifth Avenue will function as a multi-use, pedestrian sidewalk – suitable for walkers and joggers. The sidewalk is not intended for bicycle users. Bicycle traffic will continue to use Fifth Avenue as they do today – sharing the street with vehicular traffic. To increase the safety of bicycle users, “Sharrow” pavement markings will be placed within the traffic through lane and “Share the Road” signs will be placed along the curb line.

Charles T. Shasho

Deputy Director of Public Works

Mr. Chuck Shasho
Deputy Director of Public Works
City of Youngstown, Ohio

February 19, 2019

Mr. Brian Hughes, P.E.
M.S. Consultants

Mr. James Kinnick, P.E.
Executive Director
Eastgate Regional Council of Governments

Dear Sirs,

At the February 7th, 2019 meeting of Eastgate Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) there was a discussion concerning the MAH - Fifth Avenue Safety Upgrade and Reconstruction project (PID 104659). At the meeting there was concern raised that the new 10' wide sidewalks that would be located on the east side of Fifth Avenue when the project was completed, referred to as either 'Shared Use' or 'Multi-Use' sidewalks, would allow bicycle traffic to share usage with pedestrians and other users. There was also some concern that bicycle traffic would be moved off of Fifth Avenue entirely and relocated to this sidewalk. In either case several members of the CAB were concerned that if either action were to be implemented it would be a source of increased risk not only to cyclists, but also to vehicular traffic, particularly at intersections, as well as to pedestrians. It was unclear from the discussion and the information provided at the time of the meeting precisely how the finished project would handle bicycle usage on Fifth Avenue once the project was completed.

As a result of this discussion and the concerns raised at the meeting the CAB voted to request further information on how bicycle traffic would be handled by the project once it was completed. To this end this letter is being sent to request such information. Any such information sent should be sent through Eastgate so that it can be presented to the CAB at the upcoming March 7, 2019 meeting.

A motion was made and the CAB voted to recommend that the shared pedestrian-bicycle path in the Fifth Avenue redesign plans be converted to a pedestrian-only sidewalk and that bicyclists share widened street traffic lanes, with "Share the Road" signs at the curb and sharrows painted onto the street

In addition there will be one or more representatives of the CAB at the Fifth Avenue Safety Upgrade and Reconstruction project public meeting on February 19, 2019 to discuss the concerns discussed above with you.

Sincerely,



R. P. Samulka
Chairman, Citizens Advisory Board