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Director

THE CITY OF  
**COLUMBUS**

ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC SERVICE

**November 4, 2021**

**Subject: Response to Comment**

**Re: Cleveland Avenue Pedestrian Improvements (FRA-Cleveland Ave Ped Improve, PID 108642)**

Dear Interested Party,

Thank you for providing comments during the public comment period for the Cleveland Avenue Pedestrian Improvement project. The project proposes to make pedestrian improvements at seven intersections along Cleveland Avenue: Camden Avenue, E. 19th Avenue, Kenmore Road, Republic Avenue, Lakeview Avenue, Agler Road, and Lehner Road (project locations shown in the included handout). This project is part of the Walk Safe on Cleveland initiative to enhance the safety of pedestrians walking along the Cleveland Avenue Corridor. Improvements include the installation of enhanced crosswalk markings, the installation of pedestrian signals (such as Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons or Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons) at each intersection, and the replacement of non-ADA compliant curb ramps.

A summary of the project team's responses to common questions, comments, & concerns received during the comment period have been compiled into a table and included in this letter.

The City and ODOT believe that public input is critical to our decision-making process. We continue to welcome your questions, comments or notification of any issues you may wish to relay in regard to the proposed project. A virtual public meeting for the project will be held in Winter 2021/2022 for residents, businesses, and the public to further comment on the project. More details on the public meeting will be provided at a later date. Additional project details and updates are available on the City's project webpage: [columbus.gov/walksafeoncleveland](http://columbus.gov/walksafeoncleveland).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by phone at (614) 645-3966, or by email at [SMSchmidt@columbus.gov](mailto:SMSchmidt@columbus.gov).

Respectfully,



Steve Schmidt, P.E.  
Project Manager

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**FRA-Cleveland Ave Pedestrian Improvements, PID 108642**  
**Public Comments and Responses**

Comment	Project Team Response
<p>I'm concerned about kids &amp; adults crossing the street to go to the library or other business.</p>	<p>The purpose of the project is to enhance the safety of pedestrians walking along the Cleveland Avenue Corridor by making pedestrian improvements at seven intersections along Cleveland Avenue. Two of the project locations are located next to libraries which will help children and adults safely cross the street.</p>
<p>I walk to the Family Dollar Store and there is currently no crosswalk. A traffic light would help make it safer.</p> <p>Is it possible to install a traffic signal between some of these longer stretches to encourage slower traffic?</p> <p>My concern is how to encourage drivers to observe the crosswalks. People drive so fast here and I wonder if the flashing lights are sufficient to create safety and confidence for pedestrians.</p>	<p>This project will install a crosswalk at the intersection of Republic Avenue and Cleveland Avenue to help pedestrians safely cross the street to and from nearby locations such as the Family Dollar Store. Overhead signage will also be installed to alert drivers to the pedestrian crossing.</p> <p>Research has shown that Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacons are effective at increasing driver visibility and compliance with yielding to crosswalks. The treatments proposed adjacent to the library branches, Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons, require drivers to come to a complete stop when activated by pedestrians wishing to cross Cleveland Avenue. Traffic signals can actually increase crashes if installed at inappropriate locations. Therefore, traffic signals can only be installed when federal requirements, called warrants, are met. Additionally, these requirements include stipulations that traffic signals should not be used for speed control or traffic calming. If there is a specific intersection where you have concerns, please contact the 311 Service Center at:  <a href="https://311.columbus.gov/">https://311.columbus.gov/</a> or by calling 614-645-3111</p>
<p>Please continue to contract with our youth and community members for paid positions to pick up trash and debris.</p> <p>Expand paid employment of youth for community maintenance and trash clean up.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. These requests have been forwarded on to the appropriate City Departments.</p>
<p>Any improvements are welcomed.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>

<p>Enforce business owners to keep businesses areas free of trash and weeds. This responsibility should not be the sole burden of community volunteers.</p> <p>Businesses on Cleveland Avenue should be accountable for keeping the business areas clean, not allow cars to park on the sidewalks, and maintain weeds. Many businesses do not reflect a positive community image and may not be complementary to the proposed improvements.</p>	<p>Businesses may be reported through our 311 system at: <a href="https://311.columbus.gov/">https://311.columbus.gov/</a> or by calling 614-645-3111.</p>
<p>I think speed Limit Signs should be installed to show how fast people are driving Cleveland Avenue. The driving over the speed places pedestrians at risk.</p> <p>Additional Speed Limit signs and speed indicators along the corridor are needed with the proposed project.</p> <p>Speed limits should be more enforced because many vehicles are speeding and passing unsafely.</p> <p>Speed limits should be enforced because people drive so fast on this stretch, and it can take a while to find a gap in traffic to cross the street.</p> <p>I am in favor of any improvements to the street and traffic flow that increase pedestrian safety, however the biggest factor is bad driving, distracted or speeding, or both.</p>	<p>The City has recently installed “Slow Down, Save a Life” signage in combination with radar speed feedback signs along the Cleveland Avenue corridor. These signs serve as a reminder for drivers to check their speeds and slow down for safety. If further issues with speeding or unsafe driving are observed, please submit a 311 request for speed enforcement at: <a href="https://311.columbus.gov/">https://311.columbus.gov/</a> or by calling 614-645-3111.</p>
<p>The crossing signal at Kenmore and Cleveland Avenue is very needed. Thank you for including in the project. This crossing has been needed for several years and includes the need for children and adults to safely cross for the Library.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>

<p>I am disappointed that the blame seems to be on pedestrians instead of drivers. What are you doing to educate drivers?</p>	<p>The website and elements of Walk Safe on Cleveland that have been released to the public will continue to be modified and expanded upon during the campaign. Additional services include educational outreach and increased awareness. Pedestrian education is an important part of Vision Zero. The goal of Vision Zero and this campaign is to reduce deaths to zero and educating pedestrians to exercise caution is an important piece of this effort. A separate area-wide Vision Zero communications campaign will be focused on outreach and education for people driving cars/vehicles.</p>
<p>The current and newly installed handicap ramps need to be weeded and mud removed on a regular basis along with the installation of reflectors to facilitate use during day and evenings.</p>	<p>Per City Code, routine maintenance of the sidewalks and curb ramps is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. Curb ramp detectable warnings are not manufactured to be reflective for driver clarity at night. The project will install illuminated signage and reflective crosswalk markings at the crossing locations.</p>
<p>Trees that line the sidewalks with grates are full of weeds and trash. They need to be maintained.</p>	<p>For street tree maintenance, please submit a 311 service request for forestry at: <a href="https://311.columbus.gov/">https://311.columbus.gov/</a> or by calling 614-645-3111. These requests are handled by the Department of Recreation and Parks.</p>
<p>City owned buildings and lands such as the Fire Departments and Right of Ways need to cut back the high bushes and trees for safety and appearance.</p> <p>Continue code enforcement of illegal dumping and trash.</p>	<p>Please submit a 311 maintenance request at: <a href="https://311.columbus.gov/">https://311.columbus.gov/</a> or by calling 614-645-3111 for street maintenance of the specific properties in question.</p>
<p>The street curve lines at Myrtle and Cleveland Avenue need to be repainted with less of an extreme curvature. This is possible because the curve was not as extreme until the last paint job. This may help reduce accidents and injuries because of drivers trying to navigate the extreme turn in the road.</p>	<p>There is an existing Department of Public Service project that was initiated with Community Block Grant Funding to improve the intersection curvature at Cleveland and Myrtle as well as replace the traffic signal. Design is expected to begin in 2022.</p>
<p>Maintenance of traffic lines and pedestrian cross walk lines is needed.</p>	<p>Routine maintenance of pavement markings is performed across the City of Columbus each year. If you see markings that you would like to bring to the attention of the crews, please submit a request with specifics of the location and type of markings fading to the 311 Center at: <a href="https://311.columbus.gov/">https://311.columbus.gov/</a> or by calling 614-645-3111.</p>