

## Project Overview

As of February 19, 2016

### Latest News...

### Open House Public Meeting Scheduled

#### Date:

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

#### Hours:

5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

#### Where:

Next to The Hills Market  
7850 Olentangy River Road  
Columbus, OH 43235

#### Details:

Visit any time between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to meet with the project team, view the exhibits and provide your feedback on the alternatives.

*If you require any special accommodations to attend the meeting, please contact Susan Daniels at 614-481-8600 as soon as possible so arrangements can be made.*

## Worthington Hills Extension – Olentangy Trail

### Description:

- The project will provide a connection from the current trail endpoint behind the Olentangy Valley Centre to the intersection with Clubview Boulevard at SR 315. The project may also extend to the intersection with Highview Drive.
- The purpose of the project is to provide the missing link from the trail to the Worthington Hills community.
- The project is being developed by the City of Columbus Department of Recreation and Parks with assistance from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).
- ODOT committed \$250,000 towards this project as part of the agreement to close the Olentangy Trail at I-270 during the reconstruction of the I-270/SR315 interchange.

### Benefits:

- An improved crossing of SR 315, a clearly defined bicycle and pedestrian facility leading to the Olentangy Trail, and an improved trailhead at Worthington Hills Park. This will improve safety, access, and better serve the increasing number of people cycling, walking, running, and rollerblading for recreation and active transportation.

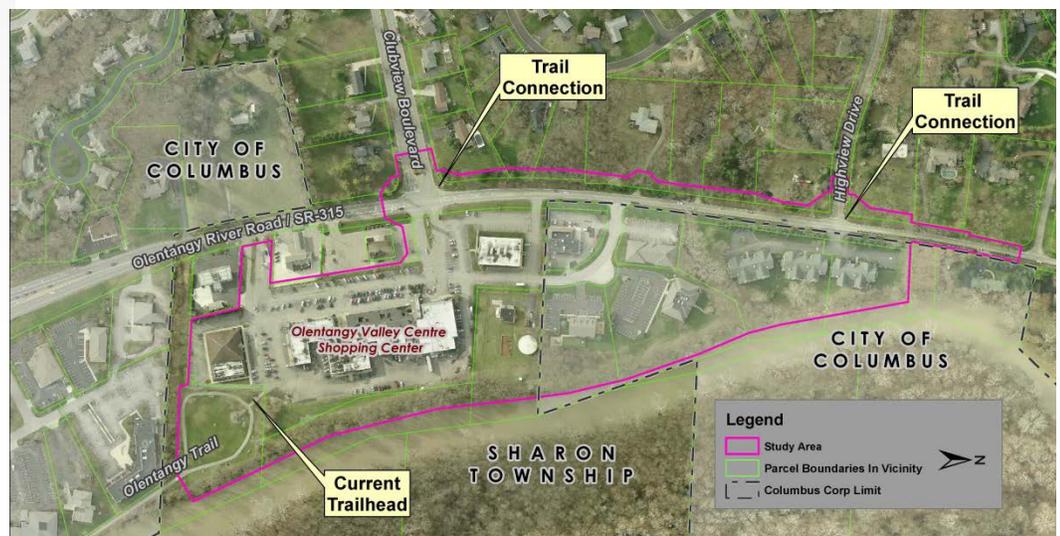
**Schedule:** Study to be complete by May 2016. Design and right-of-way purchase 2016-2017. Construction to occur in 2018.

### Contact Information:

Email: [sdaniels@lawhon-assoc.com](mailto:sdaniels@lawhon-assoc.com)

Subject: Olentangy Trail Extension Comments

Mail: Olentangy Trail Extension Comments  
c/o Susan Daniels  
Lawhon & Associates  
1441 King Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43212



Map of Study Area – Several alternatives will be developed within this area.

## Get Involved!

Public input will be an important factor in the comparison of alternatives. Please attend the public meeting and send comments.

If you cannot attend the public meeting, please contact the project team for other ways to view the alternatives and provide feedback.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### Is this project related to plans to extend the Olentangy Trail north to Highbanks Metro Park?

- No. Last year, Franklin County Metroparks (a different agency) studied various possibilities for extending the Olentangy Trail to Highbanks Metro Park. The Worthington Hills Extension of the Olentangy Trail is not part of the Metroparks' project and will not constrain consideration of alternatives for their proposed future connection to Highbanks Metro Park.

### How will the location of the trail extension be determined?

- The City has commissioned a Feasibility Study that will examine several alternatives for the trail location. An open house public meeting will be held to obtain public input on the alternatives. Following the close of the public meeting comment period, the project team will finalize a summary of the advantages and disadvantages of each alternative based upon the field data, design studies, environmental impacts, and public input. Columbus Recreation and Parks, with assistance from ODOT, will review the study's findings, along with all public comments, and make a determination on the preferred alternative. This is expected to occur by May 2016.

### What public involvement has already occurred and what is planned?

- When the study began in January 2016, the project team sent letters to all property owners, businesses, and residents within the study area. The letter provided basic background on the study, a map of the study area, and contact information for the project team. To date, the team has received several letters and e-mails with comments and suggestions. The project team has attended or scheduled meetings with the Worthington Hills Civic Association, Sharon Township, Perry Township, Mt. Air Condominium Association, the owner of the Olentangy Valley Centre, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Scenic Rivers.
- Feedback from these early outreach efforts is being used to inform the development of alternatives. These alternatives will be shared with an Advisory Committee in mid-March and then presented at the open house public meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup>. At the open house, everyone is welcome to view the exhibits and provide input on the pros and cons of the alternatives. After the meeting, all the results will be considered in order to determine a recommended solution.

*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 December 11, 2015, and executed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and ODOT.*

*This project is being developed in compliance with Title VI, Section 601 of 42USC 2000(d), which states no person in the United States shall be excluded from participation in or otherwise discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.*

*Any person who believes he or she has been denied the benefits of, excluded from participating in or otherwise discriminated against, may file a formal complaint in writing to the Ohio Department of Transportation, EEO Investigations Office at 1980 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223. All complaints must be filed within 180 days after the date of the alleged act of discrimination.*