

April 5, 2024
1618 Chandler Drive
Lima, OH 45805

City of Lima
c/o David Louth
50 Town Square
Lima, OH 45801

To whom it may concern—

It has now been more than two weeks since a public meeting was held regarding proposed improvements to Cable Road between Latham Avenue and College Park. As a resident of Sherwood Park since 1987, I have had the opportunity to witness how traffic moves (or doesn't move) on this busy thoroughfare. Now, as I come and go, to and from the neighborhood, I find myself trying to imagine what it would be like to have only three lanes in the area from Windsor Drive to College Park, as was drawn up for the engineering study.

Suffice it to say, the more I think about it, the more I don't like it. I believe that the out-of-town engineers are simply not aware of some of the challenging situations that regularly occur here—situations that would seem to become more difficult if the roadway was reduced from five lanes to three.

With that in mind, I offer these three scenarios which I have regularly observed:

First, when the railroad crossing is blocked at Cable Road, there are occasions where traffic is backed up all the way south to Latham. By eliminating one lane, it seems that traffic would have the potential to back up even farther. Thus, access to businesses on both sides of the road would be impacted over a significant distance—especially through the area where a median is proposed.

Second, there are occasions where students simultaneously arriving for classes at the college fill all of the northbound left-turn lane plus part of the center turn lane. Again, if the geometry is reduced to one northbound lane in this area, the potential for backups and access challenges would seem even more likely.


Third, this stretch of Cable Road is notorious for its frequent occurrences of leaks in the water main. As the geometry now exists, there is enough room to keep traffic moving in two directions while repairs are being made. However, with a reduction of five lanes to three, there may not be enough room to perform repair work without closing the road in at least one direction.

As I ponder the fact that the four major roads which form the large block around the neighborhood (Eastown, Elida, Cable, Allentown) now all have at least four lanes, it troubles me that part of Cable would be reduced to just three. At the very least, please consider a four-lane concept such as what we now have at Robb Avenue between Cole and Metcalf (which includes sidewalks, and carries less traffic than Cable).

As best as I can tell, the existing right-of-way of Cable Road in the area of Sherwood Park seems wide enough that four lanes and sidewalks appear to be a buildable option with no additional right-of-way required. That may not be the case when proceeding north toward the college and Mexican restaurant, but if the college is one of the entities that is truly serious about sidewalks, they should be agreeable to negotiating a right-of-way acquisition of some sort.

In closing, I appreciate the opportunity to share these observations and opinions. Simply put, I greatly dislike the idea of three lanes, and would encourage the engineers to go "back to the drawing board." Moreover, I would be greatly interested in knowing if there is anywhere else in this state (or any other) where a busy road such as this would have one occurrence of channeling traffic from five lanes to three, let alone the two instances that would result here.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael G. Buettner