

EAST WALNUT HILLS ASSEMBLY
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 9, 2019 at 7:00 PM
St Francis de Sales School Cafeteria

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Welcome	President Tony Fischer called the Special Meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. The sole order of business at the Special Meeting was to present information about and discuss the preferred option of the ESHA Stakeholder Committee for the proposed two-way street conversion of William Howard Taft Rd. (from Woodburn Ave. to Victory Pkwy), East McMillan St. (from Victory Pkwy to Woodburn Ave) and Woodburn Ave (From E. McMillan St to Wm. H Taft Rd). A copy of the notice of the meeting sent to the Assembly members and the greater community is attached.	None
Presentation by Rae Vuic, Chair Development Committee	Rae Vuic reported on the history over the years of community discussions regarding the possibility of two-way conversion. She also reported on the makeup of the current ESHA Stakeholder Committee organized to discuss the possibility of the two-way conversion. She discussed the robust process that the Stakeholder Committee engaged in during nine Stakeholder Committee meetings which took place over 15 months, ending in June of 2018 when the Committee voted on its preferred option. She gave a visual projected presentation where she discussed issues related to the existing infrastructure, the four options considered by the Stakeholder Committee and the two-way option that the Stakeholder Committee voted to support.	None
Marc Von Allmen from Dept of Economic & Community Development (DCED)	Marc Von Allmen from DCED reported that DCED supports the conversion of the streets from one-way to two-way as proposed in the preferred Stakeholder Committee approved option. He told Assembly attendees that two-way conversion would slow down traffic in the core business district and by doing so would make the area welcome to drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists and residents who live in the area. The proposed conversion also would ensure that the neighborhood is walkable. He stated that this then increases use of the area, encouraging people to linger, shop and use the services provided by the businesses.	None
Martha Kelly from the Dept of Transportation & Engineering (DOTE)	Martha Kelly also shared the history of the discussion about the two-way conversion. She stated that the two-way conversion of streets in Walnut Hills was simpler because of the straight streets in WH and no addition of new traffic signals. While referring to maps of the proposed two-way conversion plan projected for attendees to see, Ms. Kelly discussed the specifics of the proposed two-way conversion plan and told the attendees that DOTE supports the two-way conversion. She discussed installation of new traffic lights, retrofitting existing traffic lights to work two ways, the removal of a traffic island at McMillan and Woodburn and the reduction of the size of the traffic island at WH Taft and Woodburn. She discussed the introduction of a center left turn lane on Taft and when parking would be available and where on the streets impacted by the two-way conversion. She stated that the traffic light at Taft and Woodburn doesn't work well now and the intersection will remain challenging after the two-way conversion. She discussed the positive impact on St Ursula school safety (pedestrian safety) by reducing the speed of vehicles on McMillan. She also discussed the issues and impacts related to current and	None

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	future “cut through” activities where vehicles use McMillan east of Woodburn to travel to WH Taft instead of continuing onto to Woodburn.	
Walnut Hills Support: Emily Sheckels Ahouse and Clarence Taylor	Emily Sheckels Ahouse, Executive Director of the Walnut Hills Redevelopment Foundation spoke in support of the two-way conversion talking about the positive impact of two-way vehicular traffic in WH: it’s slower and safer for the vehicles and pedestrians; it’s less confusing for drivers since most of the streets in Cincinnati are two-way; there is, because of the slower movement of traffic, more visibility for businesses which means more business are coming to WH; and barriers to enjoying WH have been removed. Clarence Taylor, President of the Walnut Hill Area Council, told attendees that the two-way conversion in WH was a critical piece of the WH strategic plan to build the business district and draw residents to WH. He stated that lower traffic benefited the businesses.	None
Discussion	Tony Fischer then opened the floor to attendee discussion/comments and the asking of follow-up questions by attendees of DCED, DOTE, Rae Vuic and Tony. A robust discussion ensued. Multiple people spoke both against and in favor of the proposed two-way conversion.	None
Comments and Vote of Attendees	Once discussion ended, the attendees were asked to complete comment sheets distributed by the City and return them to City representatives. Further comment will be accepted on the City’s website and also through the comment link on the EWHA website. The comment period will continue until January 25. After the comment period has closed, the City will refine the two-way proposal based on input. Tony Fischer called a vote by ballot of the attendees. Two ballots had been distributed to attendees prior to the vote: one ballot to current EWHA members and another ballot to all other attendees wanting to vote. The language on both ballots was the same: “I support the 2-way street conversion plan for Taft, E. McMillan and Woodburn in East Walnut Hills”. Attendees could mark a box in favor (“Yes”) or against (“No”). Ballots were collected after the vote. Due to time constraints, the count of the votes was delayed until the following day.	Comment and Vote
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:55 pm.	

THE RESULTS OF THE BALLOT VOTE COUNT WERE DISTRIBUTED TO THE EWHA MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY VIA EMAIL, THE EWHA WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWING THE MEETING. A COPY OF THE EMAIL COMMUNICATION OF THE VOTE RESULTS IS ATTACHED.

Recorded by Drew Gores, Secretary

Attachments: Notice of Special Meeting, Notice of Vote Results, Sign-in Sheets

Next EWHA Board Meeting Wednesday January 30, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at MRC

Next EWH Assembly Monthly Meeting February 6, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at St Francis de Sales School Cafeteria

Become a voting member of the Assembly by going to <https://eastwalnuthills.org> and signing up.

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**** NEXT WEEK ****

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2019 @ 7PM

St. Francis deSales School Cafeteria

1602 Madison Road, Cincinnati, OH 45206

A special meeting to present the Preferred Option of the Stakeholder Committee 2-Way Conversion Plan has been scheduled for **January 9, 2019** and it will be open to the public. There will be no assembly meeting on January 2, 2019.

The purpose of this special meeting will be to present information and invite commentary on the conversion of William Howard Taft Road (from Woodburn Ave. to Victory Parkway); East McMillan Street (from Victory Parkway to Woodburn Ave.) and Woodburn Avenue (from E. McMillan St. to Wm. Howard Taft Rd.) from 1-Way streets to 2-Way streets.

This 2-Way Conversion Plan is the product of the Stakeholder Committee, which has been working with the City administration on this plan for 18 months. The Stakeholder Committee is comprised of residents, businesses, and property owners whose properties are immediately adjacent to the affected area. City officials from the Department of City Planning, the Department of Community & Economic Development, and the Department of Transportation & Engineering will be present to discuss the proposal and take questions. Public discussion and comment will follow.

The drawings and detailed summaries of the 2-Way Conversion Plan and the Existing Conditions can be found at the link below. Please take some time to look this material over before the meeting. Please plan on attending this special meeting. Additional reminders will follow.

Happy Holidays!

Tony Fischer

President, East Walnut Hills Assembly

[Link to Drawings and Summaries - Click Here](#)

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On January 10, 2019, the President, Vice-President, Secretary and a fourth Board member of the East Walnut Hills Assembly (EWHA) counted and certified the vote taken at the January 9, 2019 Assembly meeting on the two-way conversion proposal. The language put forth for a vote was: "I support the 2-way street conversion plan for Taft, E. McMillan and Woodburn in East Walnut Hills."

The results of the vote taken are:

EWHA Members voting: 82 "Yes" votes and 10 "No" votes

Non-EWHA Members voting: 33 "Yes" votes and 7 "No" votes

Total "Yes" votes: 115

Total "No" votes: 17

The City's Comment Period on the two-way proposal is open until January 25. Once the Comment Period closes, the City departments will review the comments and will refine the two-way proposal based on input from the community. This City review process may take up to a month. The EWHA Board will continue to update the community on this process.

Comments have been and may continue to be submitted on the City's "Comment Sheet" handed out at the Assembly meeting; by going to the City's website: <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/dote/dote-projects/east-walnut-hills-two-way-project/>; or by going to East Walnut Hills Assembly's website: eastwalnuthills.org and submitting your comments at the "Contact" link.

The Board of the East Walnut Hills Assembly thanks all the people who attended the Assembly meeting and participated in the discussion and vote on the two-way proposal. Turnout was very good. Over 140 people attended the meeting.



Taft/McMillan/Woodburn 2-Way Study Ea
 Wednesday, January 9, 2019 7:00-9:00 PM
 1602 Madison Road - St. Francis De Sales E

Name	Organization/Resident
Florence Parker	OKI Res. Council
Ed Fetzner	2116 Woodburn
LANA SADALE	
NANCY HUNKEMEIER	
Adrienne Coffey	
Pessica Hlynski	Resident
Alecia N. Bode	Resident
Deb Berthelson	Resident
MEAGAN DODD	Resident
Near Brown	Resident
Dan Albrecht	Resident
Mark Nelson	Resident
Josie Humes	Resident
Virginia Tallent	Resident
Mary Hume	Resident
Steve Leeper	Resident
Allen Leung-Wolf	Resident
George Bryant	Resident
Anne Kirk	Resident
Ben Frothing	1225 McMillan Rd

Taft/McMillan/Woodburn 2-Way Study Ea
 Wednesday, January 9, 2019 7:00-9:00 PM
 1602 Madison Road - St. Francis De Sales E

Name	Organization/Resident
George Warrington	Resident
Tom Duvy	Don & Titus
Keith Winkler	Resident
John Dege	Resident
Stephen Dore	Resident
Caleb Kingsley	Resident
Jacquelyn Kingsley	Resident
Ann Bowers	Resident
Kelly Murphy	Resident
Kristy Davis	Resident
Kevin Tighe	Resident
Peter Boydston	Resident
Drake Ash	Resident
Jeff Butterbaugh	Resident
Mary Beth Buttrick	Resident
Christina Nichols	Resident
RS Siddons	Resident
MATT SHAD	Resident
Steve Charnick	Resident
Marcia Fadel	Resident

Taft/McMillan/Woodburn 2-Way Study E
Wednesday, January 9, 2019 7:00-9:00 PM
1602 Madison Road – St. Francis De Sales E

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Taft/McMillan/Woodburn 2-Way Study
 Wednesday, January 9, 2019 7:00-9:00
 1602 Madison Road - St. Francis De Sale

Name	Organization/Resident
Carol Gertzel	Resident
Jim Suber	Resident
Mikel Perkins	Resident
Bill Menrath	Resident
Helen Foster-Smith	Resident
Gene Maxwell	de Klerk
Julianne Goodman	Resident

Taft/McMillan/Woodburn 2-Way Study
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 1602 Madison Road - St. Francis De Sale

Name	Organization/Resident
ARND RICE	CCC-Elm
Brunners	
Quane Laph	WHAC
Grace Cretner	St. Vincent
Georgis Nalun	MUC
Jeff Fitt	Resident
Robert Fitt	Resident
Caro Lind Kellam	City

Taft/McMillan/Woodburn 2-Way Study
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 1602 Madison Road - St. Francis De Sale

Name	Organization/Resident
AMY RUTICKI	Resident
MATTHEW ANDREWS	CITY
Tom + Stefullen	Yes
Walter Burch	Yes
RAE VOIC	Yes
Tom Mitchell	Yes
Long Fiedon	Yes
FRED MARTIN	Yes!
DIVIA	Yes
EMILY ANDRE	WHAC
DIANE PARR	Yes
CAWERT STONE	Yes.
Julia Rother	Yes
Joe Rother	Yes
BARRY RANDMAN	
Elizabeth Goldstein	Yes
KEN PEARY	
JASON BURKE	Business
AMY MATHIAS	Resident