

**Written Comments from July 29, Open House Public Meeting
(or from just before or after open house)**

On the comment form distributed at the 7/29 meeting, there was a question asking: “Please select the concept you would like to see carried forward.” Of those who responded to this question with a single selection – and most of those who submitted a form did – here is the tally of preferences:

- 9 for Concept 4** (Separate bikeway on SR 3 and 3-lane SR 3)
- 7 for Concept 5** (Major Widening – 5-lane SR 3)
- 2 for Concept 6** (New Multi-Use Path on old rail right-of-way)
- 1 for Concept 7** (New General Use Roadway on old rail right-of-way)

Specific comments received follow:

- Provide COTA shelters at bus stops.
- Eliminate advertising benches.
- Leave railroad rights-of-way for future rail corridor for Westerville to Downtown.
- Overall, Concept 4 with some modifications. The shared bike lanes need to be provided for the transportation bicyclist. A key to this would be to also provide an independent bikeway from Dempsey to and along Emrick Road. This bike path needs to be connected to the old railroad tunnel under I-270 to connect to the Westerville bikeway system, which parallels and provides access to SR 3 and Dempsey Road. Also must be connected to SR 3 with an east/west bicycle route to Sunbury Road and Big Walnut Creek. The old railroad right-of-way should contain an independent bike path to downtown Columbus.
- Accommodate bus stops with side pull offs/pockets.
- At least create a SUP/MUP between existing Alum Creek SUP/greenway trail points at Cooper Road and Emrick Road.
- Add dedicated turn lanes at key intersections – especially traffic signals.
- Run SUP/MUP under I-270 via existing abandoned railroad underpass just west of SR 3 to connect Emrick/Alum Creek trailheads.
- I am glad to see that we have been asked our input – we definitely need to widen Route 3 – depending on the hour, it takes me 30 minutes to go 3-miles – not acceptable.
- Definitely widen from north of SR 161 to existing 4-lane at Dempsey Road. Widen south of SR 161 if traffic warrants. Concepts are well-defined and explained.
- Where buses are used, a 4-lane highway is a must. Sidewalks are definitely needed.
- I would prefer the construction of a 3-lane section with bike lanes and the path along the rail corridor. This serves both types of cyclists. Plus, a 3-lane section is better for pedestrian crossings. Show pedestrian crossings on exhibits.
- I favor #4 provided there are bus pullouts to avoid congestion.
- Widen bridge over creek for bikes and pedestrians. Do it right! No distinction between Westerville and Blendon.
- We are way overdo for an updated SR 3 corridor from north of Morse Road to south of I-270. Our community plan demonstrated a wish and need for road improvements to include additional travel lanes, access management, bicycle lanes, sidewalks, and pedestrian

access. We request this to be visually appealing as well as updated to exceed the current needs.

- Major widening with 3-lanes in the south.
- I understand there was a hearing recently at the Blendon Township senior center about the bike path along Alum Creek. I was not aware of the meeting, but would like to ask the planning commission to consider providing a bridge/bike access lane from the Huber Ridge/Blendon Township area to the Alum Creek Trail. Presently, riders have to ride along very busy Westerville Road/SR 3 or travel through a shopping center (Glengary) and cross SR 3 to access the path near the KoKosing office, or, finally, like I most often do, load my bike into my truck and drive to the west side of the creek (we are located on the east side of the creek) or wade across the creek if the water level is low. Thank you for your consideration.
- Thank you. Looking forward to when this gets done.
- Would like to see a traffic signal at SR 3 and Johnny Appleseed Ct. so I can walk with my children to Hawthorne Elementary (west of SR 3 between Minerva Park Rd. and SR 161) from my home in Strawberry Farms. Currently, I can cross Alum Creek using the bike path and connect with Johnny Appleseed but there is no signal to safely cross SR 3.
- I see a lot of pedestrians walking on SR 161 from the Cols. Square shopping center to and from the Huber Heights area.
- The location of bike paths in the area need to be better identified – some people in the area don't even know that it exists and it is difficult to follow the path in the vicinity of SR 161.
- Have difficulties at the SR 161/SR 3 interchange due to the way it is configured and there is insufficient pre-notification of exit on SR 161.
- PLEASE NOTE: Some may not have noticed; on page seven of the MORPC Westerville Road Study Concept Evaluation Table, the total estimated project cost for #6 is incorrect; it should be \$22-\$27 not \$4-\$6 (if I have added correctly, that is). This error might make a difference in the choice residents make. If it is not too inconvenient, maybe someone could email the parties who attended the meeting.
- Thank you, for the excellent comparison. Very well done. My preference is for Concept 4.
- I have lived in this community for 35 years. It is strange that a community that has so many good people live in a place that is so ugly. When I have traveled to other cities, I see a city pride, streets with not only good streets, but planners that give the people, not only sidewalks and safe intersections – but take enough pride in their city to also make it beautiful. I do not know why – but this community has asked about help for a long, long time. Maybe we just contacted the wrong people to make it happen. Could we get well planned intersections, bike paths, curbs, and pedestrian sidewalks? I would love to see planning that includes brick or stone. Could we get some trees? Trees cost so little, but make the world a more beautiful place. I would wish that planners would allow us that pride in our city, which is also the entrance to Westerville (like being Otterbein's gate, we need some looks here). Oh, and bury the wires, they are so ugly and sometimes there is a car accident, then we lose our electricity. Just a note to request – I know our community will not get the big dollars to be super beautiful – but please, trees COULD help make our world a little nicer every day – it would just have to be planned, and thus my request to you.
- Is there something on your website that provides residents the opportunity to see all eight plans and review the 44 items to evaluate for Westerville Road, i.e., a duplicate of the handout we received at the meeting? I am in the process of communicating with residents

about the plan. It would be more productive if the residents could view all the details on your website. My other option is allowing them to see mine.