Case Statement

Making the Case for Future Development of the Westside Corridor as a Multi-use Path through Lucas and Wood Counties

Unique Opportunity
- Acquisition of 11 miles of linear right-of-way for public use is a rare and exceptional opportunity.
- Few communities can acquire similar property once a network of surface streets and highways has been established in a well-developed urban area.
- A long, multi-use path has the potential to enhance neighborhoods and link parts of the region in new and productive ways.
- A new access route for people encourages establishment/maintenance of business and services.
- The path crosses the Maumee River. We have a chance to build a landmark bridge that will have high visibility and will allow new access to the waterfront for bicyclists and others.

Increased Value
- Northwest Ohio is home to rare and valuable natural resources in terms of fresh water, parklands, wetlands, and habitat for birds and plants. A major, well-used path increases awareness of these resources and will establish the image of the Greater Toledo area as a place where people are healthy and active and where natural resources are valued.
- A linear park that connects existing recreational and natural facilities will increase the use and the value of the connected pieces.
- Research shows that bike/hike trails increase property values, both of immediately adjacent property and of the region as a whole.

Safe and Accessible
- A well-designed trail used by walkers, skaters, and cyclists improves security as compared to an abandoned, un-used rail property.
- The paved trail will allow access for maintenance vehicles, emergency, and law-enforcement.
- The corridor will also be a right-of-way for new utilities. It is more cost-effective and less disruptive to install and maintain utilities in a corridor than in a congested street right-of-way.
- Exceptions for motorized wheelchairs ensure that the trail will be accessible to people of all abilities.

Commuting Options
- The Westside Corridor is a long trail that connects residential, retail, industrial, and recreational areas. People can use the trail to commute to work, and to access restaurants and commercial areas.
- It is also close to several schools, health care facilities, and university campuses. It will provide safe commuting for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Healthy Exercise
- Because the corridor is in the middle of populated areas, many people will have quick access for exercise and relaxation right in their neighborhoods.
- Many people at public meetings note lack of facilities for walking and cycling. This trail would be a major addition to existing bike and pedestrian facilities, and well as providing connectivity to several existing parks and trails.

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