



Western Reserve Road (CR 32) Widening Project

MAH-CR 32-18.11, PID 108742

Summary of Comments and Responses

September 3, 2020

1. This pavement on this road is always in terrible shape because of the large trucks that drive on it.

Is the new pavement of the road going to be cement or blacktop?

The project will use asphalt (blacktop). It is intended to be more durable because of the new underdrain system that will be installed on both sides of the road. New curbs and gutters will also help stabilize the road edges. The new lanes will be full depth asphalt and the existing lanes will be ground down (deep milled) and a new asphalt surface will be installed. Also, trucks will continue to use the road when it is done.

2. Will the entire length of Western Reserve Road be worked on at the same time? Will there be easy access to 680 if you're working on the west side near Market Street. What is the maintenance of traffic?

Yes, it will all be one construction project and traffic will be maintained in both directions. However, the north side is going to be built first so the existing traffic pattern will remain unchanged during the entire first phase of construction. Once the north side is built, traffic will be shifted north and construction will happen on the south side. Construction barrels will likely be used to designate the work zone and guide drivers. Overall traffic operations will remain unchanged and access to 680 will be as it is today.

3. It appears there is being work done east of Market Street in front of Woodworth Church of the Brethren, is this related to the utility work west of Market Street?

Yes, the utility work in that area is being done by Aqua Ohio. They are making improvements to their water system ahead of the construction of both roadway projects to avoid tearing up the road after the roadway projects are complete.

4. What is the date of completion for each phase?

We anticipate the construction of the first phase (west of Market) to begin in the spring of 2021 and run through late spring/summer of 2022. Phase 2 (east of Market) is anticipated to begin in 2022 and may have a small overlap of the project west of Market. By the end of 2023, the majority of construction for Phase 2 (east of Market) should be complete. However, there may be additional touch-up work (landscaping, seeding) to do the following spring.

5. Are you planning for any full-closures or detours?

There will be a short-term closure (one weekend) to replace the railroad crossing. Besides that, there won't be any full-closures, traffic will be maintained in both directions at all times except for trucks. Trucks will be detoured to McClurg Road to ease congestion on Western Reserve Road during construction.

6. Will this work be done around the clock or just during daylight hours?

Typically, construction projects like these only work in daylight hours.

7. There are a lot of trees close to the road on the north side, will they all be removed?

Yes, any trees within the construction limits will be removed. We did everything we could to preserve as many trees as possible especially near the Reserve Drive area. Several of the intersections in the corridor

have overgrown trees and trees that are either too close or in the right-of-way which limits sight distance. Removal of these trees should increase safety.

8. Are the utility poles going to be moved and if so will there be power outages?

The mainline of power poles along the south side will remain in place and will remain active during construction. A few poles will need to be relocated due to construction. There are locations where power and communication lines change from aerial lines to underground line. The utility companies will work ahead of roadway construction to reduce potential conflicts, so outages are expected to be minimal to none.

9. Will the whole corridor of this project be worked on at the same time with barrels all the way down or in phases?

It has not been determined if this project will be constructed in phases. That decision may not be possible until just before construction. Contractors could opt to do it that way to save money, but we don't know yet at this point.

10. Why don't utility companies bury utility lines along this project?

In this corridor, the decision to bury utility lines rests with the utility companies. The mainline of power poles along the south side will not be changed because of this project.

11. Are drain pipes going on both of the sides of the road or just one?

Storm sewers will be installed mostly on just the north side. We will be collecting drainage on the south side at catch basins and then piping it across the road to the north side system. There will also be a system of smaller underdrain pipes that will drain to the catch basins which will then be piped to the north side.

12. There has been talk about this project for years. Is it actually going to happen now?

Yes, it is actually going to happen. It has been a long time coming and there have been a lot of frustrated users for many years, but it is finally going to happen.

13. Is there money set aside and allocated for this project?

Yes, there is money that has been allocated by the federal government for this project. As we get closer to construction we will seek additional state funding to help offset the cost that would come out of our county budget.

14. Are the flags that are in the yards currently for this project or the Aqua Ohio project?

They are likely OUPS (Ohio Utility Protection Service) flags marking existing utilities. Any type of underground work requires that utilities are marked in advance so they are likely for Aqua Ohio's construction. Additionally, in the coming weeks, drivers may notice additional field work being completed. This will include physically excavating holes to determine the depth of some of these utilities.

15. A red light at Western Reserve Park would improve safety for the residents at Grandshire Condos as there seems to be a race to get out of the exits which don't line up.

A new signal at Western Reserve Park is not warranted. The new westbound right turn lane into Western Reserve Park and the new center turn lane on Western Reserve Road is intended to make it easier to turn both right and left from Western Reserve Park and the Grandshire drive.

16. Where will there be new traffic signals installed?

A new signal to be installed will be at the Southern Boulevard/Harvard Boulevard intersection with Western Reserve. No other new traffic signals are proposed.

17. How many lanes will the project be?

When the project is complete the road will be one-lane in each direction with a center turn lane.

18. Will you be taking an equal amount of land from both sides of the street?

No, we need more land on the north side of the street because we are widening to the north. Some land will be required from the south side as well (approximately 2 feet).

19. Why not make the railroad crossing at Southern Boulevard and Western Reserve Road a four-way stop and prohibit left turns from Western Reserve Road to Southern Boulevard?

A new traffic signal system, new eastbound left turn lane, and new westbound right turn lane has been determined to be the best way to improve traffic flow and safety at this intersection.

20. Will any noise walls be installed during this construction?

No, the project does not have the potential to increase traffic noise and no noise mitigation (noise walls) are proposed.