

Community Connection, Mayor's Message, Fall 2015

The plans are nearing completion for the Lear Nagle Road Reconstruction Project. The Lorain County Engineer's Office will forward the plans to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Central Office in Columbus for final approval and permission to go to bid. Once approved by ODOT, the County Commissioners will proceed with the final approval to go to bid. Bids are tentatively scheduled to go out in October, bid opening in November with work to begin in Spring 2016.

Lorain County Engineer's Office will manage the project. ODOT Safety Funds which provides financing at 100% will be used first. When these funds are depleted, they will start using the 80-20 funding in which the city will be billed for the local share portion as the project proceeds. The city portion has been funded through Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs) to be repaid out of the Street Levy.

This project is finally becoming a reality. Funding for this project was approved by NOACA over 12 years ago before I took office. During an open house at LCCC many years ago, I discovered the funding was on the books but no action had been taken. Upon inquiry, ODOT informed the city they were getting ready to delete it from the approved funding list because of lack of interest. I informed ODOT the city was definitely interested and the project was revived. The city engaged Arcadis Engineering to begin working on the project.

Shortly thereafter, the Lorain County Engineer's Office made available a \$600,000 interest-free loan to finance the engineering needed to complete detailed drawings of the project. At that point, the city began working on how to fund the remainder of the project. The total project cost is \$12,749,977. The city's responsibility is \$3,455,454 which includes \$850,270 for a new water line separate from the road project. The city will realize \$9,294,523 in federal and state funding. Excluding the water line, the city will ultimately pay \$2,605,184 or 20.5% of the total road construction project.

This will be a tremendous improvement for our residents and the city. Anyone who has driven Lear Nagle Road between 6:30-8:30 AM or 4-5:30 PM will appreciate the need for this project to relieve congestion. Anyone who drives Lear Nagle at all will appreciate the need to replace the winter-worn and damaged road with a modern thoroughfare including new water lines, new storm sewers and sidewalks. Adequate turning lanes will also be added at Chestnut Ridge Road and Lear Nagle Road.

If you have any questions, please contact my office at (440) 353-0811.

Sincerely,
Mayor G. David Gillock