

Mayor's Message, October 2014

I realize everyone is tired of hearing about the widening of Center Ridge and Lear Nagle Roads. The city has provided various community forums and there have been a multitude of articles written to keep everyone updated on what we intend to do, how it will be done and funding for these projects. But, as in any large endeavor, there is always speculation on what is actually going to happen, what could happen if we don't get the support we need, and the hopes we have for our final outcome. There is so much at stake that I just want to take a moment to reiterate some important points.

First a little history. The Center Ridge Road widening project has been a topic of discussion for a long time. Even before I was sworn in as your mayor in 2003, city leaders had seen and discussed the need for a wider road. A project of this magnitude takes much planning, vision, securing of funds, time and hard work. It wasn't until January of 2013 that we actually received approval from the State of Ohio to help fund 87.5% (\$57,000,000) of the project, leaving the city to pick up only 12.5% (\$8,000,000). This news made all our hard work and efforts become less of a dream and more of a reality.

Now moving forward to May of this year, we placed a .86 million dollar bond issue on the ballot for these two road construction projects. Passage of this bond issue would have allowed us to borrow up to the \$8 million needed. This was rejected by the voters, 2186 to 2052 or a slim margin of just over 3%.

As we try again to move forward on the widening of Center Ridge Road, there are some facts that residents have to understand. The State will not move forward until our portion is funded in some manner. If we have to wait on the project, many of the buildings will be vacated along Center Ridge Road waiting for the project to commence.

Aside from the easing of traffic congestion for our residents and safety vehicles, widening of Center Ridge Road has some additional benefits. Storm sewers and storm water management systems will be added which do not currently exist today helping to reduce flooding issues. Sidewalks on the north side and a ten-foot wide multi-use path on the south side of Center Ridge will be added along with five-foot wide sidewalks on Lear Nagle. Other improvements include the widening of Lear Nagle at Lorain/Cook and Chestnut Ridge Roads. The intersections at Ridgeview Blvd/Root Road will be realigned to remove the awkward intersection at Ridge Plaza with First Merit Bank.

These are just a few of the many benefits, both direct and indirect, that our city will experience with these two road construction projects. In addition, the city administration and council are trying to move the City of North Ridgeville forward with improvements to safety, infrastructure, bridge repairs, and capital projects that have been on the back burners way too long. We need your help to move these projects forward and I hope this information has been helpful. If you have any questions on any issue regarding this great city of ours, my door is always open. Please remember to exercise your right to vote on November 4.

Sincerely,
G. David Gillock