

Public Comment, submitted via website:

As the Environmental Impact Statement public comment period is closing, may I offer the following, regarding ODOT's consideration of bicycle and pedestrian use of this huge public investment:

External factors and evident trends indicate that bicycle and pedestrian travel will increase in Cleveland over the lifespan of this project.

It is reasonable to expect, even without elaborate studies, that facilitating and encouraging bicycle and pedestrian travel with accommodations in the built environment -- especially between a major employment center and one of its nearest and most pedestrian-friendly residential neighborhoods -- will have a positive environmental impact on air, water, and land-use.

Therefore I urge ODOT to consider the inclusion in this project of safe, practical, attractive, and state-of-the-art (or, preferably, innovative) access for bicyclists and pedestrians on the Central Viaduct. It is alarming to me that ODOT has so adamantly opposed public desire for this sensible, economical measure to broadly increase mobility. I am dismayed to need to quote from ODOT's website on public involvement, but do so here to indicate the futility felt by those who have made previous comments on this matter:

"Basic principles of effective public involvement include:

- * Listening to one another;
- * Learning from one another; and
- * Sharing ideas in the decision-making process."

Cyclists and others interested in non-motorized transportation, have commented on this project diligently and with goodwill, and their input has comprised about 10% of total comments, by my estimate. The ODOT has not given any consideration to these comments, or shared, in any meaningful way, information on their decision making process regarding this issue.

" In general, a successful public involvement effort is based on the following basic actions:

- * Begin early;
- * Carefully identify potential stakeholders;
- * Be flexible;

- * Identify the needs and desires of the interested and affected parties;
- * Develop trust and credibility among stakeholders;
- * Solicit information and ideas from affected stakeholders;
- * Openly share and exchange information and ideas related to the project or a particular design or alignment;
- * Ensure that all state and federal regulations relevant to the project are met;
- * Reach agreements cooperatively by discussing, consulting, coordinating, and negotiating issues and areas of disagreement related to the plan, program, or project; and
- * Improve or adapt the final delivered project to better meet the needs and desires of the public, agencies, individuals, and groups affected."

With regard to this issue, it can not be said that this process has been successful. Cyclists and pedestrians have not been identified (let alone flexibly accommodated), solicited, or shared information with.

I hope the final delivered project will better meet the needs and desires of the public, agencies, individuals, and groups affected.

Thank you for considering this comment.

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