

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 -087

**A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE NORTH MANTUA STREET PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT IN ORDER TO DEFINE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT NEEDS FOR THE NORTH MANTUA STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**WHEREAS**, a Purpose and Need Statement is a document used for the most impactful federally funded roadway projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Mantua Street Improvement Project Purpose and Need Statement was developed in conjunction with the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), Kent City School District and Davey Tree Company and it will guide the design team, stakeholders and the CAC.


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio:

**SECTION 1.** That Kent City Council does hereby accept the North Mantua Street Purpose and Need Statement as a guide to future improvements as Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein.

**SECTION 2.** That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

**SECTION 3.** That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council, this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

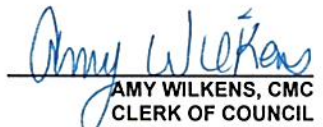
PASSED: August 21, 2024  
Date

  
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Jerry T. Fiala  
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: August 21, 2024  
Date

ATTEST: Amy Wilkens  
Amy Wilkens, CMC  
Clerk of Council

I, AMY WILKENS, CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF ORDINANCE No. 2024-087, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON August 21, 2024.

  
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AMY WILKENS, CMC  
CLERK OF COUNCIL  
(SEAL)



## NORTH MANTUA STREET IMPROVEMENTS PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT (DRAFT)

**Project Area** – The project area is located along North Mantua Street (St. Rt. 43) from approximately Needham Avenue to the Kent city limits. This project corridor includes Theodore Roosevelt High School, Standing Rock Cemetery, residences in the River Bend development and the current and future entrances to Davey Tree (Davey’s research campus is scheduled to open in 2025). Population in this area includes approximately 2,100 students at Stanton Middle and Theodore Roosevelt High schools, a future capacity of 400 employees at Davey Tree and approximately 150 houses in River Bend.

**History** – This stretch of roadway is less than one-mile. It is well-traveled, with schools, a residential development and the corporate headquarters for a major company in the area. It also serves as the northern gateway into the City of Kent.

Public concerns involving traffic safety, vehicular speeds, vehicular ingress/egress and pedestrian safety have been expressed about this area for over 20 years. Proposals to deal with the issues have been explored at various times since the early 2000’s. This included traffic studies to consider installing a traffic signal at River Bend Boulevard, discussions about widening St. Rt. 43, and a conceptual layout of proposed improvements using a boulevard concept. The traffic studies did not meet the criteria to install a traffic signal and none of the other ideas moved beyond the conceptual state.

**Needs** – This section of North Mantua Street regularly has a volume of 17,000 to 18,000 vehicles per day, coupled with motorists traveling faster than the posted speed limit, and a transition from four lanes to two lanes. The result is lane jockeying, difficulties for motorists entering and exiting River Bend and Davey Tree and unsafe pedestrian crossing conditions. In addition, while this area serves as an entrance into the city it lacks the aesthetic appeal of a main gateway. The current bike and pedestrian facilities do not meet the demands of the community. Also, there are plans for a new active transportation trail to traverse the area and strong pedestrian and bike connections to the new trail are critical. A figure depicting the new trail location can be found on page 3.

**Project Goals** – This project is an opportunity to transform this stretch of North Mantua St. to improve facilities and better serve the needs of all users (motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians) traveling this road, residents living in this area, students, staff and others entering and exiting Theodore Roosevelt High School, as well as employees and visitors to Davey Tree. The goal is to





provide an aesthetically pleasing, stress-free street that meets the current demands of the communities living and working in this area.

Throughout the planning, design and construction phases, the project team should consistently ensure that the project goals minimize possible negative impacts and accentuate positive impacts to residential neighborhoods and access to businesses and educational facilities in this area. This project should build on the transportation planning and other principles espoused in the City's Bicentennial and Climate Action Plans, and were used in the East Main Street, Summit Street and Crain Avenue projects. The project must integrate concepts from these plans along with input and collaboration from Davey Tree and Kent City Schools, the Citizens Advisory Committee, the stakeholders and public meetings.

This project will be successful if it achieves the following:

- 1) Improves safety for all users
- 2) Balances vehicular needs with improvements to other modes of transportation
- 3) Improves vehicle ingress and egress
- 4) Improves aesthetic and gateway features

#### **Project Considerations –**

- **Reduce Vehicular Speeds and Safety**
  - Provide enhancements to reduce vehicular speeds on SR 43, particularly during posted school zone times.
  - Balance the need for efficient vehicular movements with the need for safe bicycle and pedestrian crossings.
  - Look at ways to minimize "lane jockeying" that occurs along North Mantua St., especially where the roadway transitions from two lanes to four lanes.
- **Active Transportation Needs**
  - Provide enhancements to improve pedestrian and cyclist crossings on North Mantua Street.
  - Reduce the apprehension of crossing Mantua Street at all locations.
  - Provide facilities to accommodate large groups walking to and from Theodore Roosevelt High School.
  - Provide the long-term bike/pedestrian trail facilities in the project area that are part of the Lake Rockwell Trail.



- Improvements should integrate with future bike/pedestrian facilities on the School District Campus and Davey Tree's SEED Campus.
- **Vehicle Ingress/Egress**
  - Reduce traffic delays for turning movements onto North Mantua Street, from River Bend Boulevard and Davey Tree.
  - Explore ways to increase visibility when turning onto State Route 43.
  - Provide adequate ingress and egress from the Kent City Schools campus, which meets their needs.
- **Aesthetics/Gateway**
  - Implement aesthetic features that will also increase safety and encourage motorists to drive slower.
  - Provide a sense of arrival to motorists traveling southbound into Kent. It should be clear to drivers that they have "arrived" and therefore should slow down as they enter the City.

**Proposed New Trail Location**

