

RESOLUTION NO. 2019 -40

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE EAST MAIN STREET PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT IN ORDER TO DEFINE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT NEEDS FOR THE EAST MAIN STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

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

WHEREAS, the East Main Street Improvement Project Purpose and Need Statement was developed in conjunction with the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Kent State University 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, at least three-fourths (3/4) of all members elected thereto concurring:

SECTION 1. That Kent City Council does hereby accept the East Main Street Purpose and Need Statement as a guide to future improvements and attached as Exhibit A.

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.

PASSED: Apr. 17, 2019
Date

Fiala
Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: April 17, 2019
Date

ATTEST: Dawn Bishop
Dawn Bishop
Interim Clerk of Council

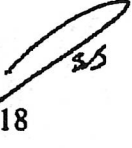
I, DAWN BISHOP, INTERIM CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF ORDINANCE No. _____, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON _____, 20_____.

DAWN BISHOP
INTERIM CLERK OF COUNCIL
(SEAL)

**CITY OF KENT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE
DIVISION OF ENGINEERING**

MEMO

TO: Dave Ruller
Hope Jones

FROM: Jim Bowling 

DATE: March 26, 2018

RE: East Main Street –Purpose and Need Statement

The Service Department is requesting council's time and consideration of the attached purpose and need statement for East Main Street. The purpose and need statement is a document used for the most impactful federally funded roadway projects. A purpose and needs statement was established and approved by previous City Councils for Summit Street and the Fairchild Avenue Bridge Project. The document defines the most significant needs in the project area that the project should be correcting and the nature in which they should be corrected.

The East Main Street Purpose and Need Statement was developed in conjunction with a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Kent State University (KSU). Several meetings with the CAC were held to determine the needs for the area. After the document was drafted, the CAC had time to review the document and a meeting was held to discuss the document and recommend changes to the document. The attached document reflects the combined efforts of the City Staff, KSU and the CAC to define the purpose and needs along East Main Street and the adjacent areas.

The final document will guide the design team, stakeholders and CAC in determining and evaluating alternates that we hope will be implemented along East Main Street in the near future. We appreciate Council's consideration of the Purpose and Need and recommend it for approval.

c: Melanie Baker
Jon Giaquinto



EAST MAIN STREET AREA IMPROVEMENTS PURPOSE AND NEEDS STATEMENT

Project Area – The project area is generally located along East Main Street from the Willow/Main/SR 59 intersection to the Horning/Main intersection. The project area also includes areas north and south of East Main Street to achieve the seamless integration and functionality of the East Main Street Corridor.

History – East Main Street in Kent, Ohio is one of the oldest streets in the City and as such has gone through several major changes throughout the history of Kent. Shown on maps from 1874, East Main Street was a rural roadway that provided connections to Ravenna with large tracts of land adjacent to the corridor. In 1919, East Main Street shows the beginnings of a modern street with sidewalks lining both sides, large stately homes with generous lawns lining the north side and Kent Normal College with a large park like setting on the south side.



Present - In 2019, East Main Street is a five lane roadway with automobile-oriented commercial establishments along most of the northern side and Kent State University along the southern side. Multi-modal accommodations are limited in this corridor with most of the right-of-way dominated by pavement for vehicular traffic. However, there exists significant pedestrian, bicycle and transit demands in the right-of-way with the presence of Kent State University along the corridor.





Corridor Needs – East Main Street currently ranks as the highest crash corridor in the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) region (Summit and Portage Counties). Furthermore, the corridor is uninviting with minimal facilities for transit, pedestrians and bicyclists, and lacks the needed visual appeal to serve as a main gateway into the City of Kent and Kent State University. Lastly, at times vehicular traffic bypasses East Main Street in favor of residential streets in the Crain Avenue, University Heights and University Woods Neighborhoods. These bypassed trips are caused in part by the alignment of certain cross streets (i.e. Luther and Terrace Drive) and by vehicular delays along the corridor.

Project Goals - As can be seen in the above photos, the last 100 years has changed the character of East Main Street from a stately, less cluttered, stress free street to a busy street with many competing uses. This deterioration of the right-of-way was necessitated by traffic demands and the supported development along the corridor. The East Main Street Area Improvements project is an opportunity to reimagine this vital corridor to better serve the needs of City residents, transportation users, and the university community. The goal is to provide an aesthetically pleasing, stately, less cluttered, stress free street that meets the current demands of East Main Street's users.

Throughout the planning, design and construction of this project, the project team should consistently ensure that project goals minimize possible negative impacts and accentuate positive impacts to residential neighborhoods, Kent State University, and access to the businesses along the corridor. This project should build on the transportation planning and other principles used in the Summit Street and Crain Avenue Projects, the City's Bicentennial Comprehensive Plan, and the Kent State University 2018 Gateway Master Plan. The East Main Street Area Improvements project must integrate the concepts from these plans along with input from the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC), the Stakeholders and public meetings.

This project will be successful if it achieves the following:

- A. Jointly Improves safety and aesthetics (as a function of safety) for all users
- B. Balances vehicular congestion with improvements to other modes of transportation (pedestrian, bike and transit)
- C. Enhances adjacent neighborhoods
- D. Integrates with Kent State University's 2018 Gateway Master Plan
- E. Provides reasonable access to adjacent properties and side streets

Project Considerations

- **Safety:** Reduce the number and severity of all types of crashes on East Main Street, including vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian crashes.
 - Reduce crashes due to turning movements onto and off of East Main Street;
 - Provide safe and convenient pedestrian and bicycle facilities.
 - Implement aesthetic features that also increase safety, such as large tree canopies that encourage motorists to drive slower.





- **Vehicular Congestion and Multi-modal Facilities:** Balance the competing needs between efficient vehicular movements and safe, convenient facilities for other modes of transportation, including bicycle, pedestrian and transit.
 - Strengthen the multi-modal nature of the corridor, in part by improving the “last mile” non-vehicular facilities to the Kent Central Gateway, which is the regional transit hub in Portage County;
 - Evaluate congestion due to turn movements along the corridor;
 - Provide facilities to not only improve cyclist and pedestrian crossings on East Main Street, but also to reduce their fear of crossing the Street;
 - Provide facilities to improve cyclist and pedestrian travel along both sides of East Main Street, with an emphasis at intersections and drives;
 - Provide transit facilities along the corridor, which may include bus pull-offs and shelters;
 - Consider future mobility options and technology improvements;
 - Optimize signal timings based on corridor improvements;
- **Neighborhoods:** Enhance adjacent neighborhoods along East Main Street.
 - Minimize traffic bypassing East Main Street through the neighborhoods;
 - Investigate efficient ways to slow traffic through the neighborhoods;
 - Consider possible infrastructure solutions to address concerns with student housing and parking in the neighborhoods;
 - Improve pedestrian facilities at crossings and improve pedestrian travel along East Main Street, so that the neighborhoods can have transportation options to use facilities within walking/biking distance;
 - Provide for reasonable delays to motorists when entering East Main Street from unsignalized streets.
- **Kent State University:** Integrate improvements along East Main Street with the construction of a signature gateway to Kent State University that serves as an extension of the newly designed iconic Front Campus entrance.
 - The project must consider the effects of the 2018 Gateway Master Plan to ensure that there is no adverse increase in congestion along the corridor;
 - Work with Kent State University to integrate the improvements along East Main Street with the 2018 Gateway Master Plan (e.g. Midway Entrance; parking deck, Captain Brady Corner) to maximize the neighborhood and corridor aesthetics and functionality.
- **Access:** Maintain access to businesses, neighborhoods and Kent State University throughout the corridor.
 - Provide reasonable access to businesses through access management, while considering safety and congestion along the corridor;
 - Provide reasonable access to neighborhoods and Kent State University while considering safety and congestion at intersections.
- **Other:** Where possible, the project should consider future technology, noise pollution, and operating speeds on East Main Street.
 - As part of the project, the operating speeds along East Main Street will be investigated;
 - The project will improve the aesthetic nature of the corridor to create a gateway into the City of Kent.

