

City of Oberlin

85 South Main St. Oberlin, OH 44074

Public Works Department

August 14, 2024

TO: North Park St. Residents and Neighbors on North Pleasant and East Lorain

FROM: Jeff Baumann, Public Works Director

RE: North Park St. Reconstruction and Intersection Improvements Project

Most of you will recall last summer's project replacing the sanitary sewer main and the water main on North Park, from East Lorain north to the school properties. The next phase of improvements will begin soon. On July 1, 2024, City Council awarded the North Park St. Reconstruction and Intersection Improvements Project to Mc.B Paving in the amount of \$782,197.00. The work includes reconstruction and widening North Park St. to the east from 21' to 26'. This project also includes widening East Lorain St. on the north side at the intersection to add northbound and southbound left turn lanes to facilitate traffic movements through the intersection. Please see **Overall Site Plan**, enclosed.

You may ask 'why is the City building this project now just as school is about to start?' In short, the Ohio Public Works Commission is contributing up to \$390,000 towards project costs and their funds are tied to the July 1 – June 30 state fiscal year. City Council awarded the project on the earliest possible date. Public Works has built early finish incentives into the contract to encourage timely completion.

City Engineer Randall Roberts and I have met with Mc.B Paving and their excavation/concrete sub-contractor, Tri-Mor to carefully plan for traffic movements to/from the schools and through the work zones on North Park and on East Lorain. We've also met with Oberlin Municipal Light & Power, School District staff and the Oberlin Police and Fire Departments to develop a plan that provides reasonable traffic flow, emergency response and allows the contractor to work efficiently. Please note the following: **The traffic signal at North Park and East Lorain will be temporarily removed during construction. Traffic movements on North Park will be regulated by STOP signs.**

During construction, for about 6-7 weeks, North Park St. at East Lorain will be **ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND ONLY**. This includes residents and all school-related traffic. We have the School District's consent to route traffic through school property using the loop road to North Pleasant St. Please see **North Park Circulation Map**. Contractor vehicles will not be routed through the school property but will exit southbound to East Lorain St. using flaggers and/or spotters to safely leave the construction zone. During those times when our contractor is widening East Lorain St., alternating two-way traffic will be maintained in the south (eastbound) lane using flaggers - at least one of whom will be in the North Park/East Lorain intersection to assist drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

Based on the current schedule, work will begin on Monday, August 19th. During the first week, they will focus on getting traffic control in place, site preparation and on the storm sewer improvements along North Park. They will install a 5' wide stone path on the east side of North Park St. to temporarily take the place of the existing sidewalk which must be removed to widen the street. Once the stone path

is in place, the sidewalk will be removed and the area where the street is being widened will be excavated and prepared for the stone base. The existing asphalt will be milled off North Park St. and then all of the curb along North Park will be removed. The widening on East Lorain will follow a similar sequence: excavation behind the curb and preparation for the stone base before the curbs are removed. After curbs have been removed, driveways will be temporarily ramped in for resident access. The new stone base course for the widened street will be installed next.

After Labor Day, the next phase will be to prepare for and pour all of the new curb on both sides of North Park and along the widened sections of East Lorain. Curb replacement also requires the replacement of driveway aprons. This will be the most disruptive part of the work as driveways will not be accessible for 10-12 days until the new concrete curbs and driveway aprons have cured to their design strength. As the schedule stands today, driveways will not be accessible at the end of August and approximately the first 10 days of September. This is weather-dependent and subject to change. While your driveway is inaccessible, we have permission from the School District to use the parking lot at the north end of the street. Any residents with special needs should contact the Public Works Department as soon as possible so we can help to determine how accommodations may best be made.

Once the preceding work is complete, new asphalt will be placed in three layers over the course of a few days. The surface course will be sealed and pavement markings including crosswalks, stop bars, School Zone and channelization markings will be installed in thermoplastic. Mc.B Paving is responsible for final site restoration in the curb lawn and the repair of any other damages caused during construction. The City has hired Quality Control Inspection, Inc. (QCI) to assist us in managing this project.

To meet the project schedule they are planning to work (5) 10-hour days, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, depending on the weather. Delays should be expected. Residents on North Pleasant St. should expect additional traffic, especially at the beginning and end of the school day. For your safety and the safety of construction workers, inspectors, City staff and teachers, staff, parents and students traveling to school, please exercise caution at all times around the construction work and construction equipment. Although there will be temporary inconveniences, I would like to thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation during this important improvement project.

Please note that City Council has awarded a contract to Crossroads Asphalt to build the new 10' wide multi-use path on the east side of North Park from East Lorain to the schools. Their work will begin as the North Park Reconstruction and Intersection Improvements Project winds down. For 2025, Oberlin Municipal Light and Power is working with their design engineer and coordinating with Public Works to replace the traffic signal systems at East Lorain/North Park and East Lorain/North Pleasant.

During construction, I will send out occasional project updates via e-mail. Anyone who would like to be on this project-specific listserv, should send me an email to that effect. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at jbaumann@cityofoberlin.com or (440) 775-7204 or to City Engineer Randall Roberts at rroberts@cityofoberlin.com or (440) 776-0037.

Cc: Dr. David Hall, OCSD Superintendent
Jim Eibel, OCSD Operations Manager
Jon Clark, Interim City Manager
Ryan Warfield, Oberlin Police Chief
Bob Hanmer, Oberlin Fire Chief
Drew Skolnicki, OMLPS Director
City Council