

LICKING HEIGHTS LOCAL SCHOOLS

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November 13, 2018

Dear Cable Road and Woodside Drive Residents:

Construction of our new high school at 4101 Summit Road will soon begin. As site preparation work has already started and school construction is getting ready to begin, I want to provide an update to Cable and Woodside residents who are impacted by traffic near the school.

First, community input has been helpful throughout this process. For example, residents shared concerns entering or exiting their driveway during the start of the school day as well as at dismissal. Furthermore, concerns were expressed about the width of Cable Road, especially for school buses. As district officials, we noted these issues and have proactively planned for a way to redirect traffic off of Cable Road. More specifically, an internal driveway will be constructed with Summit Road access that will span the length of Cable Road and connect with a driveway on the existing high school property (see the attached site plan and note the red outlined area). Ultimately, this driveway will connect with an exit onto Mink Street, thus avoiding Cable Road altogether (Also, see the attached and the blue outlined section).

The new high school driveway on Summit is designed for school bus access, while also rerouting parent and student traffic as a means to relieve traffic on Cable Road. As noted in the most recent iteration of the Traffic Impact Study, *...this driveway and subsequent traffic pattern offers a comparable if not a better solution than installing a northbound right turn lane at the intersection of Cable and Summit Road.*

In addition to the preceding information, our district will stagger the start and end times of the new high school and middle school to further decrease the amount of traffic by at least 30 minutes (this also was a recommendation cited in the Traffic Impact Study). As well, we have committed to hiring an additional school safety officer and/or assistant principal who will be actively involved in redirecting traffic during pivotal points in the school day. This step was also cited in the Traffic Impact Study as a means to reduce the congestion experienced during the peak hours of the school day.

Throughout the design phase of the new high school, we have been working collaboratively with Pataskala's Administration and City Council. As a recent example, administration and city council leadership suggested that our Traffic Engineer use an alternate methodology to ensure we had the most accurate study information available. Our Traffic Engineer used this new methodology in his most recent recommendations, which affirmed prior recommendations. While a traffic signal was under study at the corner of Cable and Summit Roads, it was deemed not to meet any of the warrants from the Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. In fact, the other measures (noted earlier) have a more significant impact on projected traffic issues than the traffic control signal itself; especially because the traffic needs surround two approximate 20 minute blocks of time during school day mornings and afternoon dismissal.

Furthermore, it is important to emphasize Cable Road improvements are integrated as part of our plan, based on recommendations cited in the Traffic Impact Study. An exclusive eastbound left

turn lane will be constructed as a turn into the new high school access driveway. Additionally, we will be extending the existing eastbound left turn lane into the current high school access driveway. The entrance into the new high school will be offset from Woodside Drive and will offer a means to traverse the entire high school and middle school campus without needing to re-enter Cable Road. This traffic pattern should also alleviate concerns of residents living on Woodside Drive of traffic using their street as a “cut through” during peak hours of travel.

Throughout this process, we’ve listened to concerns from the Board of Zoning Appeals, City Administration and Council, as well as, our residents. In reviewing all of these concerns, we have been able to meld this information with solutions contained within the Traffic Impact Study. As a result and once the new high school is operational, the plan is designed to mitigate traffic issues with an expected decrease in the level of traffic on Cable Road during peak hours of the school day. Nonetheless, no plan is perfect and again I want to emphasize the strong partnership with city personnel as the City of Pataskala is currently studying long-range comprehensive planning. As the area continues to grow, we remain committed to fostering economic development opportunities to support existing area infrastructure, as well as, applying for eligible grants to improve our streets and the flow of traffic.

On behalf of our school board, students and community, I want to thank all of you for your input over the past few months. Additionally, please watch the district’s website at lhschools.org for updates about the building project.

Sincerely,

Philip H. Wagner, Ph.D.
Superintendent