

WEST 17TH STREET NEW MULTIMODAL PATH COMING

Public Works is in the very early stages of planning for improvements on 17th Street. Crescent Bend and West 17th are among the neighborhoods most likely to be impacted by the project, but almost everyone on the north side travels this road at some point.

The proposed project involves the construction of a multimodal pathway (bicyclists/pedestrians) on the north side of 17th between Monroe Street (the roundabout) and Grant Street (near Memorial Stadium). The project also includes improvements along the south side of 17th Street as well. Pedestrian curb ramps will be made ADA compliant which will address both access and sidewalk maintenance issues. The traffic signal on the northern side of the intersection of 17th Street and Kinser Pike/Madison Street will be relocated to provide room for the new path, and the project will also improve lane alignments at the intersection of 17th Street and College Avenue.

Traffic will still be able to travel through the area, but expect detours and flagging. Construction is anticipated to begin in spring 2021. The City of Bloomington will manage the project with funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and administrative oversight from the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT).

(I have a more detailed description of the project including maps, elevation studies, and more. If you'd like a copy, just let me know.)

Also ...

I'm gathering feedback from District 2 Residents on ways they could be affected by the project (environmental, mobility, social, etc.) and will be sharing it with the planning firm hired for this project. Any written comments are most welcome. Just email me at the address at right.



B-CLEAR DATA SET SPOTLIGHT: NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION GRANTS HISTORY

"B-Clear" is short for *Bloomington Clear*, a web-based, one-stop site for data about the City of Bloomington, its services, and its neighborhoods. The site is open to the public and includes over 200 data sets about everything from park trails to police calls to paving schedules. This month, I'm spotlighting the *Neighborhood Association Grants History* data set – a look at funds granted to our neighborhoods through Bloomington's Small-and-Simple Grants Program in recent years. Matlock Heights and Blue Ridge are well-represented on this list!

FIND OUT MORE:

- <https://data.bloomington.in.gov/dataset/neighborhood-association-grant-history>
- <https://bloomington.in.gov/neighborhoods/grants/small-and-simple>

TRANSPORTATION SURVEY: *TRANSFORM2045* METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

The MPO provides transportation planning services for Bloomington, Ellettsville, and parts of Monroe County. To ensure that the best transportation projects are prioritized, public input is essential.

Transform2045: The BMCMPo Metropolitan Transportation Plan, is the MPO's long range transportation plan with the year 2045 in mind. It will be informed by collective public comment to help plan for, select, and improve the best transportation projects over the course of the next 25 years to make our region an even better place to live. This 10-15 minute survey is a chance to share your experiences using the Bloomington area's current transportation system (roads, bridges, etc.) and about your ideas about how to improve your transportation experience.

FIND OUT MORE AND COMPLETE THE SURVEY:

- <https://www.bloomington.in.gov/mpo/metropolitan-transportation-plan>



PILOT PROJECT: LOWER CASCADES ROAD CONVERSION

BASICS - Starting back in March, a .6-mile section of Old State Road 37 North was converted to a trail for bicyclists and pedestrians. Barricades identify the south end of the trail (near the Rogers Group Quarry entrance) and its north end (near the entrance to the playground parking lot). One of seven public amenity improvements being funded by City Bicentennial Bonds issued in 2018, the pilot trail project is intended to expand and integrate with Bloomington's network of walking and bicycling trails; provide a safe, accessible destination for recreation and exercise; and offer bicycle commuters additional options for safer routes.

SHOULD WE EXTEND THE PILOT? - The current plan is for the road to be closed to motorists for this pilot through Wednesday, September 30, 2020. Because these are such unusual times with the COVID-19 crisis, Parks is concerned (rightly, I think) that the user data/feedback we collect this spring/summer won't really be representative of a normal year for Lower Cascades, and so they are *considering* extending the pilot program beyond its original September 30th close date. So what do you think?

WHO DECIDES WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PILOT? -

Two groups ultimately have the authority to decide what to do with the road in Lower Cascades: (1) the **Board of Park Commissioners** (BPC), and (2) the **Board Public Works** (BPW). BPC will deliberate and vote on a recommendation to close/not close the road. Then, BPW will use their statutory authority to actually close/open the street once the recommendation comes to them. The issue does not come before City Council, and so I don't have a vote. What I CAN do is help as many people as possible take advantage of opportunities to share their views.



SHARE YOUR OPINION! - Have an opinion about Lower Cascades? Here's what you can do:

→ **Complete the Survey** - Visit Lower Cascades and fill out the survey on your experience. It is especially powerful/helpful if you include written comments in addition to completing the multiple choice questions.

www.surveymonkey.com/r/7VDP2BF

→ **Offer Public Comment at BPC and BPW Meetings** - All business meetings of these two groups are open to the public and you will have an opportunity to address the Board on topics that are of interest/concern to you as a Bloomington resident. Public comment is really important! I've watched members of various boards/commissions (not to mention City Council) change their position mid-meeting because of what they hear during public comment.

→ **Add These Meetings To Your Calendar Now** - You can find the calendar of city meetings at www.bloomington.in.gov. It's not the easiest calendar to read and so here are the dates/times that are probably most relevant to Lower Cascades:

- **Board of Parks Commissioners** - August 18 and September 22 | 4:00 pm at City Hall in Council Chambers
- **Board of Public Works** - August 4, 18 | September 1, 15, 29. | 5:30 pm at City Hall in Council Chambers

NOTE: The dates above are just my guess(es) about when Lower Cascades will come up on the agenda. Please visit the web pages for those Boards and check for an updated agenda regularly so you don't accidentally miss an opportunity to offer comment.

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