

OVER THE RHINE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1227 Vine Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
PresidentOTRCC@gmail.com

November 28th, 2016

Department of Transportation and Engineering
Two Centennial Plaza
805 Central Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Re: Liberty Street Safety Improvement Study

Dear Mr. Andrews and the City of Cincinnati DOTE:

Following the vote at our meeting on October 24th, 2016, the Over-the-Rhine Community Council (OTRCC) is pleased to give our support for the proposed 5-lane configuration for the redesign of Liberty Street through the center of our neighborhood.

We believe this configuration adequately maintains the current level of traffic flow through the area while adding greatly to the walkable pedestrian scale of our historic neighborhood. Residential parking in the evenings will also continue to serve as needed resource for our residents.

Ever since a failed highway project leveled buildings on the southern side of Liberty in the 1960s to accommodate car-first design, Liberty Street has served as both a physical and psychological barrier that divides our neighborhood. By narrowing the pedestrian crossing distance to increase safety and by providing extra land for new development along the southern side, this reconfiguration will gradually serve to reconnect our neighborhood as one walkable historic district after new buildings heal the streetscape by building to this narrower southern edge.

We cannot speak more highly of the process of community engagement that you and your DOTE team have used to narrow the many redesign choices to this final 5-lane configuration. Hundreds of our residents have been engaged throughout this process and their input is evident in the final designs.

We look forward to your final construction-ready designs and to working with you, DOTE, and city council to fully secure funding to implement and construct this project as soon as possible. Lest it be forgotten, the OTRCC has unanimously voted in favor of funding the construction of this project as one of our three limited Community Budget Requests to city administration this past fall, which should highlight this project's importance to our residents.

Thank you again for the work you have done. Sincerely,



Martha Good, President
on behalf of the Community Council Board of Trustees



Matt Jacob, Treasurer