

From: Scott K. [mailto:scott.kolesar@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2017 2:55 PM
To: Molly Kapeluck
Subject: Budgeting for city wide connectivity plan.

Members of Council,

As planning for the next fiscal year begins, I implore the administration of the City of Green to ensure funding for sidewalks, activity paths, or whatever you wish to term them, be highly prioritized for the upcoming fiscal year. Please do not allow the wait for the results of the citizen's poll, or for grant approval, be the excuse for leaving it from consideration yet another year.

For quite a long time, the act of installing sidewalks on major roads within Green has been described as "in the budget for next year", "imminent", and "high priority" by members of the administration of the City of Green. I have been asking this question to nearly every mayor, member of council and city planner since arriving in Green in 2000. I've gotten the same answer every time, along with "We want it too", and "It's badly needed".

I live in Green Ridge Estates, who along with the Pezotti Lane apartments, have no connecting street from the back of our development. Pair that with the constant dangers of the 'S' curve and it share of accidents, broken mailboxes and even snapped utility poles, and you should understand my strong desire for these needed and simple improvements.

Every development since the late 1990's has installed sidewalks as if required by zoning, but the City has not built anything to connect these neighborhoods to anywhere.

It has been more pertinent since my children entered Green Intermediate School, about 1.1 miles from my doorstep, in 2012. They constantly want to walk or bike to school. I am only comfortable with walking, and only on warm, bright, dry days, where they have footing on the dirt and the cars won't slide around. If not for the grace of our backyard neighbors allowing access through to Hightower Estates, their bicycles would well be useless.

I had occasion to meet a member of the administration, and we discussed the new trail built on Steese Road. He expressed satisfaction for its current terminus. Greenwood Drive residents 'now' have access to City Center, and Rolling Greens residents can access the path through Meadow Wood. The explanation had two faults I declined to argue at dinner:

1. Greenwood Drive has the same back-road access to City Center (GIS, GMS, GHS Central Park and CAB). Measuring from Springdale Drive and Greenwood Drive where they meet Steese, the distance to the Shriver and Steese intersection is within 0.1 miles using secondary roads.

2. The conversation artfully ignored Green Ridge Estates, its 40 households and dozens of school-age children, who have no other way to leave the development except onto Steese Road.

I grew up where all city streets had sidewalks. I, too, was about a mile from my Elementary and Junior High schools. I was ineligible for bussing because I was within a safe walking distance. I suggest that if you need more financial justification, look into the impact of setting a minimum distance for bussing (if such a thing is possible these days), and calculate the savings from the reduction of bus services.

Please don't simply install a 'wide-berm' style path attached to the road. I refer you to the tragedy last month on South Main Street in Coventry, as a prime example of the dangers of that method.

Lastly, I have one overarching argument. How can you have a "Walkable Downtown" and parks with legislated, ample funding, if the people cannot walk to it?

Thank you for your time and consideration

Scott Kolesar