



LinkUS Weinland Park Civic Assoc. Engagement

NOTES: 06/25/ 2024

Location: Northside Branch, Columbus Library – 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Commissioners in Attendance:

President – Tanya Long
Vice President – Ryan Freet
Secretary – Lauren Eden Jones
Treasurer – Chris Micciche

LinkUS Engagement Team:

MORPC – Elliot Lewis
TSPRG – Jasmine Ayres
City of Columbus – Rory McGuiness

Questions & Concerns

****Question:****

Will sidewalks in front of residences be considered for sidewalk upgrades, or is it entirely new infrastructure?

****Answer:****

Initial projects will prioritize filling in gaps where no sidewalks or shared-use paths currently exist. However, stretches of existing sidewalks in severely poor condition that present an accessibility barrier are also eligible for this program.

****Question:****

What can communities expect in terms of safety? How many fewer pedestrian and bike accidents do we expect?

****Answer****

This is a good question, and our team will explore ways to project the safety impact in terms of crash reductions. In general, the initial proposed projects were reviewed for their proximity to the

High Injury Network and the ability to improve safety in these areas. As these projects develop, full separation from roadways or physical protection from other road users will be prioritized.

****Question:****

Can the LINKUS create a sidewalk overlay similar to what they have for BRT? Something that shows residents where they can expect sidewalk improvements.

- MORPC

****Answer****

We are planning to incorporate this and other contextual illustrations to highlight the barriers addressed by this program. These maps and the draft list of projects prioritized for construction by 2030 will be released to the public for review and input in July.

****Question:****

What is the compliance mechanism to ensure developers are leasing 20% of the units at 80-60% AMI? Two community members have been told by leasing agents that they have never heard of the 20% requirement.

****Answer****

Still waiting for feedback.

****Question:****

Does COTA plan to expand the locations where you can get "discounted" bus passes beyond the main location downtown? How will the new payment system affect the unhoused and low-income populations?

- There are currently no plans to expand obtaining a discounted bus pass outside of COTA's downtown office at this time. That said, once a passenger signs up for Income Assistance or Reduced Fare at COTA's downtown office, they will be able to obtain a Smartcard that can be refilled online (<https://passes.cota.com/>) or by going to locations with VidaPay/Vanilla Paper passes without going downtown. Similarly, with the Transit App, once a passenger is signed up, they can continue to input funds through the app and receive the discount. More information on COTA's discount pass program can be found here: <https://cota.com/riding-cota/discount-fares/>. It is anticipated that the current fare policies, including discounted programs, will apply to the future BRT routes as well.