

From: **Kerry Thomson** <kerry.thomson@bloomington.in.gov>

Date: Wed, Feb 14, 2024, 3:40 PM

Subject: Hawthorne/Weatherstone Greenway

To: Dave Rollo <rollod@bloomington.in.gov>, Andy Ruff <ruffa@bloomington.in.gov>, Isak Asare <isak.asare@bloomington.in.gov>, Matt Flaherty <matt.flaherty@bloomington.in.gov>, <eric@ost.com>, <regina.moore@gmail.com>

Eric, Andy, Regina, Dave, Isak and Matt---

As you likely know, the bids have been approved and work is ready to start on the Hawthorne/Weatherstone greenway. Like many residents, I had serious doubts about the project, but as I have reviewed the plans and had the opportunity to understand it thoroughly, I have come to believe this is a project which is important to our connectivity and worthy of completion. The city will be moving forward with greenway improvements.

I know this is not the outcome several residents had hoped for, and also understand the process of arriving at this greenway plan was not ideal from many perspectives, and I'd like to host a meeting this Saturday for two reasons:

- 1) to offer the background and understanding of the project and to answer resident questions about the project at every level-- from "why does it cost so much money?" to "why is this needed when this path is already used?" and all other questions you and your neighbors may have.
- 2) to hear from residents about their challenges with the project including any revisions that may still be within scope to be made and inform implementation AND
- 3) to learn more about how the city can facilitate an improved process in the future. I have heard from several people that plan this was "done" before any input was given-- I'd like to find ways where possible to include residents at the forefront, and even in the co-creation of solutions where possible.

I will have city staff involved with the project on hand to answer questions about the project itself; they can also provide the amendments to the project that were made as a result of feedback received, if residents are interested in hearing those.

We will also be able to answer questions about other connected safety issues and ideas for future improvements such as intersections where this greenway intersects with Atwater and 1st Streets.

While I know implementing this project is ultimately not the answer you had hoped for, my hope is that with your feedback we can improve such processes in the future, and may be able to improve the implementation of this project.

Time: Saturday, February 17, 12 noon, McCloskey Room, City Hall or by zoom

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/84288946311?pwd=xlyGbtIbUeLqGxZn60ZBtob4BrrHb.1>

I have a list of questions I have received about the project (below), and will begin the meeting by answering those questions, then we will have time for additional questions, as well as time to gain ideas about improving process and/or improving the greenway implementation.

Would you please help spread the word about this meeting? It will be open to the public, of course, but I'm particularly interested in getting word to those who have been invested in this process. Posting this invite to neighborhood associations would be welcome.

I've included council members for the district and at-large.

All my best,
Kerry
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