

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Craig A. Stough 09/26/2018

"Sylvania River Trail – Phase II"

As many of you may already be aware, construction of Phase II of the Sylvania River Trail has been underway this summer and is now approaching completion. A few items still remain, including installing lights, signage and handrails. This work is expected to be completed and this new trail section is expected to be ready and open for public use by mid-October.

Last year on November 6, 2017, Sylvania City Council voted unanimously to award a contract for this Phase II construction work to the low bidder, Miller Brothers Construction, Inc. of Archbold, Ohio in the amount of \$2,487,260.26. Their bid was 3.5% under the engineer's estimate.

This new construction will more than double the length of the existing River Trail. The new section will extend east from Harroun Road, across the Flower Hospital campus, over the Ottawa River on a new bridge, under US 23 using the existing expressway bridges over the Ottawa River, and up to Monroe Street adjacent to the northbound US 23 exit ramp and the Burger King restaurant. This new route will be much more pleasant for pedestrians and bike riders alike than crossing over US 23 on the busy Monroe Street bridge.

Many challenges had to be overcome to make the River Trail extension possible. Much of the Trail had to be elevated on platforms as it passes over and along the Ottawa River floodway to keep the Trail a respectful distance from the Ebeid Hospice Residence. Several habitat and environmental issues had to be addressed.

Options for installing pedestrian/bike crossing lights on Harroun Road are being reviewed and evaluated. The earlier idea of passing under the Harroun Road bridge proved unworkable due to the width and height of the existing bridge opening.

Further, easements for the Trail had to be granted by Flower Hospital, Sylvania Country Club and Burger King to allow this new public pathway across their properties. Thank you to all three parties for your cooperation and willingness to allow this public improvement to become a reality!

Construction cost is always a challenge, and the City received wonderful cooperation in this regard as well. The City's expense will be about \$850,000, only about a third of the total construction cost. Flower Hospital contributed \$400,000. Another \$850,000 was received from the Clean Ohio Trails Fund program, and another \$400,000 from the State of Ohio Capital Improvement Budget thanks to the legislative help of Barbara Sears.

Sylvania can be proud of their wonderful and newly extended River Trail. It is an asset to the community, opening up beautiful natural areas along the Ottawa River for our residents to enjoy and exercise along. Thank you and congratulations to all involved!



Elevated River Trail over the Ottawa River floodway.



New bikeway/pedestrian bridge crossing the Ottawa River.



River Trail passing under US 23 along the Ottawa River.