



January 16, 2014

I'm writing to give you an update on the response we've received regarding the **pedestrian safety possibilities**. I apologize that the links that were sent out in the previous *Mayor's Message* didn't all work properly. To give working links to those who didn't get them, a *Nextdoor Berkeley Lake* message that was sent out with them. If you haven't seen the complete report, [please check it out](#). Then if you have an opinion, take a moment to share it with us by emailing sidewalks@berkeley-lake.com. We are collecting and studying those responses which I requested be sent by January 24. We will still consider any comments sent after that, but it would be helpful to get them on in to us as soon as possible. Right now the opinions we've received are running slightly over 60% against the suggested changes, for the following reasons:

- People don't want to lose trees and shrubbery.
- People are concerned that more pavement and concrete is more impervious surface which means that during rains there would be more sudden runoff causing erosion problems.
- Mailboxes along the widened roadsides would have to be moved and brick or stone ones which are now grandfathered could not be rebuilt. The new ones would have to meet the current "post and arm" requirements.
- Some think walkers just need to stay out of the middle of the road and that there's no guarantee they'd do that with these expensive changes, especially when 3-4 people are walking together.
- Some think money would be better spent on paving and that there are good safe walking trails nearby at Pinckneyville Park.

People who support the proposal didn't offer much commentary, but just wanted more safety for walkers.

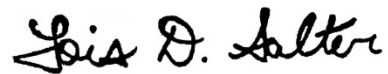
There were others who didn't express a pro or con, but had need for additional information. I asked Tom Rozier to respond to those and to create [a space on our website for others to see questions answered](#) since they might have the same ones.

I've been to the BLHA annual meeting and to Chapel with a printout of the study to share with anyone who might not have computer access and also placed a copy at City Hall for anyone's use. Please let us know your thoughts and wishes about this. All of City Council and our staff are

reading your comments sent to the ["sidewalks" email address](#) and open to talk with anyone lacking computer access. If a decision is made by Council in a month or so to implement some of this proposal, we can do it in parts, not all at once. I can apply for outside funding support now for paving and the city can continue to consider these more major changes further into the future if that's desired, but it would help to get guidance from our citizens now. We've been given good estimates of cost for you to consider. More accurate costs could only come after we pay for expensive engineering design work and get bids from contractors. Neither of those is appropriate if a significant majority of our citizens don't want this.

By sharing this overview of the information we've received thus far, I certainly don't want in any way to dissuade anyone from adding their voice to the chorus, pro or con. Quite the opposite, I urge everyone to chime in.

Thanks to each of you for your time in considering this issue for our city. We all appreciate that.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lois D. Alter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.