



Date: September 1, 2020

To: Mayor and Members of City Council
From: Paula Boggs Muething, Interim City Manager
Subject: FC CINCINNATI STADIUM - EZZARD CHARLES ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

This road project is being completed and undertaken by FC Cincinnati. The City Administration asked FC Cincinnati to provide information on community engagement and any responses by the community for the Ezzard Charles roadway improvements project. The work for the project is currently on hold until a consensus is reached to move forward.

Community Engagement Efforts

This updated report will summarize the recent community engagement and alternatives for the Ezzard Charles roadway improvements needed for the FCC stadium construction.

FCC representatives and their consultant, Kleingers, have attended three meetings with the West End neighborhood in August.

- August 6, they presented the current design (Option A) to the City West HOA.
- August 11, they presented two options (Option A and a new Option B) to the West End Community Council ("WECC") Executive Council.
- August 18, they presented three options (Option A, Option B and a new Option C) to WECC General Membership

Three options have been developed over the course of the meetings described above:

Option A -- The original plan (the status quo):

- 1) Curb bump outs and protected median enhancing pedestrian safety;
- 2) One travel lane westbound and two travel lanes eastbound; and
- 3) Less parking than other options but maintains the current level of parking available; and
- 4) Preserves rideshare option on Ezzard Charles.

Option B:

- 1) Curb bump outs and protected median enhancing pedestrian safety;
- 2) One travel lane in both directions;

- 3) Slower speeds enhancing safety for pedestrians;
- 4) Less capacity for everyday vehicular traffic compared to other options; and
- 5) Reduced rideshare options.

Option C:

- 1) Curb bump outs and protected median enhancing pedestrian safety;
- 2) Predominantly one travel lane but two travel lanes eastbound east of Cutter;
- 3) Maintains slower speeds approaching Cutter crossing; and
- 4) Preserves rideshare option on Ezzard Charles.

Community Responses

During the August 18th meeting, no consensus was obtained between the three options. FCC created an online poll / survey for WECC members to rank their preference of the three options. The survey link was emailed and distributed to the community via the WECC. The community was asked to rank the options in order of preference.

The survey results showed that Option A received the most votes as the first option.

Option A had 53.62% as a #1 choice.

Option B had 44.12% as a #1 choice.

Option C had 4.29% as a #1 choice.

The total results are shown below.

	1	2	3	TOTAL	SCORE
Option A	53.62% 37	8.70% 6	37.68% 26	69	2.16
Option B	44.12% 30	8.82% 6	47.06% 32	68	1.97
Option C	4.29% 3	81.43% 57	14.29% 10	70	1.90

Over the past week, FCC has received other community input:

- A letter from City West Townhomes Owners' Association, Inc.
 - HOA = 89 townhomes on Cutter Street, Ezzard Charles Drive, Laurel Park Drive and West Court Street.
 - It supports one lane of traffic and one parking lane on Ezzard Charles during non-event hours in eastbound and westbound direction between John St. and Linn St. with two-lane traffic merging outside that zone.
 - Support Option B.
- A letter from Longworth Square HOA.
 - Unanimous support of Option A.

- A letter from Hopkins Manor Condominium Owners Association.
 - 427-429 Hopkins Ave.
 - Support Ezzard Charles rideshare location; oppose possible alternative location on John St.
- A letter from Ezzard Charles Row House Condominiums HOA.
 - Oppose possible alternative rideshare location on John St.
- A letter from Betts-Longworth Historic District Group.
 - Support Ezzard Charles rideshare location; oppose possible alternative location on John St.; support two full-time traffic lanes in each direction on Ezzard Charles, including non-gamedays.
- Longworth Square COA opposed to possible John St. rideshare location.
- Letters from 104 residents in support of "Option A".

Current Project Status

The Ezzard Charles roadway improvement project needs to be started as soon as possible to complete the project by the time the FC Cincinnati stadium is opened.

cc: John S. Brazina, Director, Transportation and Engineering

John B