

BRAD FOSTER, P.E., P.S.

FRANKLIN COUNTY ENGINEER

April 12, 2024

RE: Renner Rd Widening Project

Dear Residents and Property Owners,

The Franklin County Engineer's Office hosted a public involvement meeting on Tuesday June 27th, 2023, where residents and stakeholders were invited to review information about a future improvement project along Renner Road between Alton & Darby Creek Road and Spindler Road. We received several comments during the meeting and during the open comment period. This letter is to serve as an update on the design of the project and how those concerns are either addressed or not addressed due to project constraints. As reported in the public meeting documents, construction could start as early as April 2025 and last through October 2025.

Comment #1: Full closure of Renner causes traffic concerns at Spindler and Roberts Rd- there needs to be a traffic light installed at that intersection before closing Renner.

Response: The intersection of Spindler Road and Roberts Road is in the City of Columbus and not in FCEO jurisdiction. This concern has been noted and reviewed by the City of Columbus, with the determination that no temporary signal will be installed at the intersection during the full closure of Renner Rd. FCEO contacted the City of Columbus with a request to investigate the possibility of installing a temporary signal during construction. The City responded that a signal is not feasible and would cause increased delays due to the lack of left turn lanes on Roberts and Spindler. They also cited that the lateral offset between Spindler Rd and Frazell Rd would cause issues with timing a signal based solution. FCEO asked the City of Columbus if this intersection was a problem the last time Renner Rd experienced a full closure in Summer 2022. The City stated outside of expected slowdowns with the increased traffic, no significant issues were experienced. The City of Columbus has identified a future roundabout project to be built at this intersection, currently budgeted for construction beginning in Summer 2027. See below link for more information:

<https://www.columbus.gov/Templates/Detail.aspx?id=2147530346>

Comment #2: What are your plans for Feder Rd in the future? Are the new apt. (government apt?) low income?



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Response: Franklin County does not currently have any plans for Feder Rd. The City of Columbus at Feder and Hilliard Rome Rd project will help relieve traffic congestion in the area. The Franklin County Engineer's Office is not involved and does not have any information concerning the new apartment buildings.

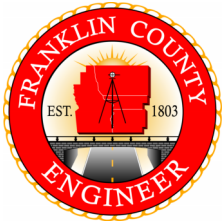
Comment #3: 5' wide sidewalks? Really? How much of our land are you taking to do this? There are walking paths across the street and sidewalks already on the north side of Renner. Leave us alone! There's going to be way too much additional traffic for a 'turn lane' to solve. We already can't get out of our driveways and very few people have moved in yet.

Response: Generally, the existing right-of-way footprint on the south side of Renner Rd is 40' south of the existing legal centerline of the roadway. There are 6 of 27 residential parcels on the south side of Renner Rd that only have 30' of existing right-of-way along their frontage. Those properties will require an additional 10' of right-of-way to be acquired as part of the project. Property owners will be compensated for any additional right-of-way needing to be acquired. A two-way left turn lane will assist traffic flow along this segment of Renner Rd by allowing left turning vehicles room to clear the through lane of pavement to wait for their opening. It will also reduce the number of rear-end crashes that the corridor has experienced. Additionally, relief will be provided for turning out of your driveways as you only need to wait for a gap in traffic one direction at a time.

Comment #4: I have a line of trees right on top of the proposed sidewalk. I understand I will be compensated for these if they are removed. Please feel free to call me about this.
Concern: The increase in traffic at the Spindler & Roberts intersection when Renner is closed. Need a light temporary during closure.

Response: Property owners will be compensated for any trees being removed that are outside of the existing right-of-way line. Any trees or landscaping that are within existing right-of-way will be considered encroachments and property owners will not be compensated for their removal. Our Real Estate team will contact any properties identified for right-of-way acquisition beginning in Spring/Summer 2024. Please see response to Comment #1 regarding the intersection of Spindler Rd at Roberts Rd.

Comment #6: Concerns: Heavy traffic and it's only going to get heavier. They're going to be 5000 to 6000 cars or more when these projects get done. This is in addition to the traffic we have now!! I think the Building Code on Housing Development street width should be visited. Cars parked on both sides at the curbs will only allow 1 small car at a time to get through. This is not acceptable. What about Fire Trucks- Ambulances are getting wider. This is a safety



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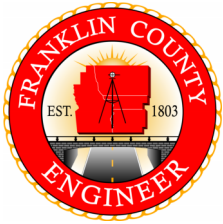
issue. It seems your dept. is always years behind on getting better traffic flow. Why not make Alton Darby Rd into a 4 lane w/center turn lanes. Now seeing the housing development going on. Why are you and the City of Columbus- Hilliard and all the other city Engineers working against each other? Renner Rd should be a 4 lane all the way to Hilliard Rome Spindler to Hilliard Rome is going to be a bottle neck traffic jam, anyone can see this! Why isn't this project turning Renner Rd into a 4 Lane?

Response: The new housing developments are City of Columbus jurisdiction and meet associated City of Columbus subdivision regulations and roadway standards. Widening Renner Rd to 4-lanes would significantly impact the current property owners and further increase the cost of the project. The primary reason this project is required is due to the traffic analysis performed as part of the Sugar Farms and Renner Park subdivision projects. Both of those developments studied the traffic impacts, and it was determined both needed a left turn lane added to Renner Rd along their frontages. The resulting roadway would have then had 4 independent left turn lanes (at Alton & Darby Creek Rd, at Termini Drive, at Renner Park Drive, and at Spindler Rd). This would have resulted in an hour-glass shaped corridor. The proposed design combines all these left turn lanes into one uniform width corridor. There are multiple other existing east-west thoroughfares that provide traffic relief away from Renner Rd, Roberts Rd and Feder Rd being the two nearest to this project. Traffic analysis was performed, and this segment of Renner Rd does and will not have the traffic demand needed to warrant 2 through lanes in each direction by the design year of 2045. The majority of traffic being added to Renner Rd is not through traffic continuing to the west, but destination based traffic associated with the new developments fronting directly onto Renner Rd. The proposed design is the best option for improving traffic while minimizing impact to local properties.

Comment #6: Request that Columbus adds a temporary light at Spindler and Roberts Rd prior to first phase. Request additional 35 MPH Speed signs are added to Renner Rd prior to the construction taking place. I have reached out to Hilliard PD to confirm they are the patrolling jurisdiction for Renner Rd. If so, I will request additional patrolling for speed. Will Columbus add a temporary signal at Spindler & Roberts during construction?

Response: Please see response to Comment #1 regarding the intersection of Spindler Rd at Roberts Rd.

Comment #7: By moving Renner to the North by 50 feet or so it will eliminate the need to build the sidewalk on the South side resident's land. There is room to do this where the retention ponds are. This would extend the closing time a lot. You guys do a great job. More should come to the meeting and participate.



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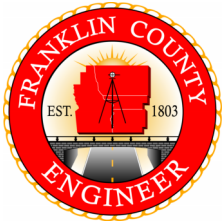
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Response: The proposed alignment of the roadway widening is utilizing the existing footprint of Renner Rd to the fullest extent possible. The widening for the two-way left turn lane is going to widen the existing Renner Rd pavement primarily to the north, as this comment suggests. This decision was made because there are significantly fewer residential properties on the north side of the road than the south side of the road, which thereby minimizes impact of the project to the majority of those who live on Renner Rd.

Comment #8: My biggest concern is doing this project while they are still working on the project for Feder road. Feder and Renner run parallel to each other. Feder road project has been ongoing and is not done yet (completion date I am not aware of). We need one road that is construction free to get around efficiently. With the entrance ramp to 70E moved, it has caused quite the hassle trying to get home. I use Renner Road so that I can avoid the clover/70E entrance ramp from SB Hilliard Rome Road. It does not flow well at all. When is Feder going to get finished?

Response: The Hilliard Rome Road at Feder and Fisher Road project is a City of Columbus project and was substantially completed in Fall 2023, with minimal work continuing into 2024. Additionally, the Franklin County Engineer's Office has a bridge replacement project occurring on Alton & Darby Creek Rd between Renner Rd and Feder Rd, which will be constructed in Summer 2024. This will not conflict with the construction of this Renner Rd Widening project, which is scheduled to start April 2025.

Comment #9: We should focus on the disaster that is Spinder and Roberts. This widening on Darby Creek Road appears to do nothing for the school or residents of that area, other than add a wider flow of traffic in turning areas by adding a lane in a direction that doesn't feed the school drop off line or the direction of flow for the parents leaving pick up. Traffic and parking on Spindler, during soccer season, is a nightmare and our streets in Timberbrook get crowded with overflow parking that makes it near impossible for emergency vehicles to fit down roads. And now that the city owns it, I can only assume it's going to extend the games and seasons played there. Let's not also forget, the nightmare of traffic at every single intersection of HRR from 70 to Roberts. How much more overcrowding do you think it's going to become once all these new homes get filled? Our schools are also already at max and will only become even more overrun, are there plans to add more schools to adapt to the influx of families? It looks more and more every day like it's time to move out of the area. The appeal to Hilliard was the green spaces and smaller town feel, with an amazing school system in comparison to Columbus. But all that is quickly being destroyed."



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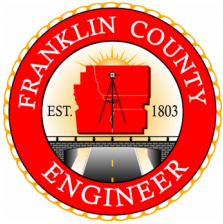
Response: Please see response to Comment #1 regarding the intersection of Spindler Rd at Roberts Rd. The Franklin County Engineer's Office is not involved in the decision making associated with new developments, school districting, or the soccer fields on Spindler Rd.

Comment #10: Concerns: Slowdowns from extra traffic light, but understand the necessity. Spindler/Roberts traffic nightmare during detour/closure. Need traffic light ASAP. Should do automatic walk light for multiuse at new traffic light. I would really like to see Mudsock connected to the multiuse trail as well as multiuse trail extended to Hilliard Rome Rd within a reasonable time frame.

Response: Please see response to Comment #1 regarding the intersection of Spindler Rd at Roberts Rd. We will be installing flashing yellow beacons at the new crosswalk at Renner Road & Renner Park Drive to increase pedestrian safety while crossing Renner Rd. The Mudsock Trail will be connected to the proposed shared-use path as part of this project. The City of Columbus is pursuing an improvement at Hilliard Rome Rd/Renner Rd/Trabue Rd that will be including sidewalks and a shared-use path. There will be a 2,000' gap between the end of that project and the end of this project which has been identified as a future connection for both shared-use paths.

Comment #11: Residents on the south side of Renner are concerned about losing part of their front yards. Please try and limit this loss, however I strongly support the need for ped and bike facilities on both sides of Renner. By the time housing development is finished in that area, it won't be a sleepy rural road anymore and current and future residents need safe ways to move. MOT Concerns: 1. Renner Road is used for school traffic not only to Horizon but also to Bradley and Memorial on Walker Road. Please consider this in your MOT plan. 2. Please help deter traffic from cutting through residential neighborhoods at Valley Crest and Willowridge where they intersect with Renner. 3. The intersection of Spindler and Roberts Road is very dangerous. Please consider a traffic light and or an officer directing traffic there at peak times, whether daily or for special events at Spindler Park. Even if this intersection is not part of the official detour, it will be used as such.

Response: Please see response to Comment #3 regarding the considerations weighed in the alignment of the improvements, specifically the south side sidewalk. The majority of the proposed sidewalk is in existing Franklin County Right-of-Way. The full closure needed to replace the bridge over Clover Groff Ditch is proposed to begin in June 2025 once school is out. There will be periods of time during the school year (Spring and Fall 2025) where only one direction of traffic will be maintained, and the other direction of traffic detoured. Please see response to Comment #1 regarding the intersection of Spindler Rd at Roberts Rd.



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Comment #12: Three lanes- incorporating a continuous middle turn lane - replacing the 1938 bridge over Clover Groff run ... then adding a sidewalk on the south side of Renner Road...? I have not had a need for this sidewalk after 34 years in this house on Renner Rd. That which to me is extremely important is the SPEED LIMIT on Renner Rd from Hilliard- Rome Rd to Alton Darby that should be 35 MPH at present even with the recent changes regarding the speed limit in some sections of Renner Rd - vehicles fly 45 - 55 MPH... something is very concerning and wrong with this situation. Then - I am concerned about the only crosswalk at the corner of Spindler Rd and Renner Rd... It should have flashing lights to ensure the safety of not just adults crossing, also the children. The only other place I think there should be a crosswalk is at the corner of Willowridge and Renner Rd, with flashing lights to slow the traffic down. All this - to be the protocol 365 days a year. My house on Renner Rd was built in 1945/1947(?)... the oldest house in the whole of Timberbrook... I am concerned regarding the new Storm Sewer system and hope we shall not be compromised by having 18" of water in our basement in the future due to the "New Sewer System" - need to check very closely when hooking up the house to the new sewer system. Very concerned about this aspect. The Gas Meter might have to be moved? Another big concern is that I have NO SENSE of SMELL and tampering with the Gas would be disastrous. I am very afraid/terrified of GAS. I feel that there is NO NEED for a sidewalk on the south side of Renner Rd... who has dictated this unnecessary and expensive idea?

Response: A speed limit reduction on this segment of Renner Rd has already been issued and put into effect in advance of the project. The crosswalk at Spindler Rd and Renner Rd is at a traffic signal and will have "walk" "don't walk" signs. We are adding a crosswalk at the proposed Renner Park Drive and Renner Road intersection, and also a crosswalk between Valley Crest Dr and Willow Ridge Rd. These new crosswalks will have flashing yellow beacons when activated. The existing storm sewer is a 15" diameter pipe. The proposed storm sewer will be 24" in diameter. This will mean an increase in capacity and better performance. All existing downspouts and/or sump pumps that are currently tied into the sewer will be reconnected to the proposed storm sewer. All utilities, including gas, will be marked and if they are in conflict with the proposed work, will be relocated in advance of the project.

Comment #13: I question the benefit and justification of the sidewalk on the south side of Renner Rd. Is it justified by the projected foot traffic? There are not sidewalks in Timberbrook and unlike the home density on the north side of Renner Rd, the home density is much lower. I believe an important basis for such a project should be to slow the speed of auto traffic throughout the day. I question if this project will accomplish this. It may actually facilitate increased speed. I believe the new housing developments will only make this worse. The



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heavy traffic load only exists during the morning and afternoon traffic periods. Also, the need for a crosswalk at Valley Crest Drive is very questionable. The few pedestrians with a need to cross Renner Rd usually are going to the elementary school and will cross wherever they are and there is a break in auto traffic. It's unrealistic to believe they will use a sidewalk that does not lead directly to their desired destination.

Response: The sidewalk on the south side of the road is a requirement according to the Franklin County Commissioner's adopted Complete Streets policy. The sidewalk serves pedestrian foot traffic and vulnerable road users. The shared-use path is intended to serve primarily bicycle traffic, which is prohibited on the sidewalk. Pedestrians are free to use the shared-use path also, but in doing so will need to co-exist with any bicyclists. The project will be installing increased high-visibility crosswalks with Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB's). When activated, flashing lights will alert vehicular traffic to stop for crossing pedestrians, which will slow traffic. Additionally, the speed limit has been lowered from 45mph to 35mph in advance of the project. There is a proposed crosswalk located between Valley Crest Drive and Willow Ridge Rd, meant to serve both north and south phases of Timberbrook and beyond. Pedestrian traffic will not only go to the school but is also expected to cross north for access to the Mudsock Trail and connections to Spindler Park.

Comment #14: Timberbrook sign @ the southwest side of Spindler and Renner Rd

Response: Some of the existing vegetation and landscape block around this sign will need to be removed as part of this project. However, the sign itself was designed around and will not need to be relocated.

Sincerely,

Brad Foster, P.E., P.S.
Franklin County Engineer

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew B. Rehfus".

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