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**Department of Public Service  
Division of Engineering**

June 8, 2016

**Subject: Open House Public Involvement Meeting (June 22, 2016)  
Cherry Valley Road Bridge over Raccoon Creek  
Project: LIC-CR128-0.97; PID 87642  
City of Newark, Licking County, Ohio**

Dear Resident/Property-Business Owner/Interested Citizen:

The City of Newark Division of Engineering will conduct an open house public involvement meeting to present and discuss the feasible alternative designs for a new bridge crossing on Cherry Valley Road over Raccoon Creek in the City of Newark, Licking County, Ohio. The existing stone and concrete arch bridge, which was originally built around 1825 as part of the Granville Feeder for the Ohio and Erie Canal, is structurally deficient and in need of replacement.

The purpose of the project is to construct a new bridge over Raccoon Creek in order to maintain a safe, reliable route of travel on Cherry Valley Road. This project also has incorporated several goals and objectives, with the principal issues being: preserve the existing bridge, optimize traffic safety, support Licking County's long-term thoroughfare plan, and promote long-term economic development along Thornwood Drive.

As part of a Feasibility Study, four alternatives were developed and compared against the project purpose and need and goals and objectives. Preliminary, probable project costs also were estimated for each bridge replacement alternative, and then each alternative was evaluated for how effectively it fulfilled the project needs given its associated costs. Based on the findings of the preliminary studies, the City of Newark, in coordination with Gannett Fleming (Engineering Consultant), Licking County Area Transportation Study (LCATS), and the Ohio Department of Transportation District 5, has selected Alternative 4 - Direct Connection with a Roundabout as the preferred alternative.



The purpose of the public involvement meeting is to solicit comments from the public and stakeholders regarding the preliminary design that has been completed and the preferred alternative. Maps, exhibits, and plans will be displayed during the open house, and representatives of the City and project team will be available to discuss the alternatives, summarize the potential impacts of the proposed project including the floodplain impacts, and address any questions and concerns.

**The public involvement meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 22, 2016, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Hospice of Central Ohio located at 2269 Cherry Valley Road, Newark, Ohio. The public involvement meeting will be conducted in an open house format with no formal presentation. *Attendees may arrive anytime between 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM.***

Comments may be submitted in the following ways:

- Spoken or submitted in person during the open house public involvement meeting.
- By phone to Brian Morehead, City of Newark Engineer, at (740) 670-7727.
- By email to [bmorehead@newarkohio.net](mailto:bmorehead@newarkohio.net)
- By mail to:

Brian R. Morehead, P.E.  
City Engineer  
40 West Main Street  
Newark, OH 43055

**The final date to submit comments is Friday, July 8, 2016.**

If you are unable to attend the public involvement meeting, the meeting materials will be available for review on the City's website at the following link:

<http://www.newarkohio.net/city-services/projects/cherry-valley-road-bridge-over-raccoon-creek>

A summary of comments received during the public comment period and responses to those comments will be available by request and also posted by August 5, 2016 on the City's website at the link noted above.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by ODOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 11, 2015, and executed by FHWA and ODOT. In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (codified as 36 CFR 800), the City of Newark and ODOT also request information regarding the presence of any known cultural resources in the vicinity of the project. Cultural resources include prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, historic bridges, historic buildings, sites and districts.

Respectfully,



Brian R. Morehead, P.E.  
City of Newark Engineer