

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2025 – 7:00 P.M.  
MAYOR WILLIAM G. KOONS PRESIDING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bell, Berger, Canton, Cavanagh, Galicki, and Porter

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Fiscal Officer Romanowski, Police Chief Rizzo, Solicitor Matheney

**VISITORS:** Todd M. Kruse, Ridgecrest Dr.; Don Rice, GCBDD; Richard Smith, Forest Dr.; John Buda, Leaview Ln.; Carrie Schloss, Hickory Hill, Chagrin Falls; Kathryn Garvey, Washington St., Chagrin Falls

The Mayor called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Fiscal Officer read the roll. **Galicki made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2025, Regular Council meeting, seconded by Cavanagh. Voice vote – ayes, Bell, Canton, Cavanagh, Galicki, and Porter. Berger abstained. Motion carried. Galicki made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2025, Special Council Meeting, seconded by Bell. Voice vote – ayes, Bell, Canton, Cavanagh, Galicki, and Porter. Berger abstained. Motion carried.**

**VISITORS:** Don Rice, Superintendent of the Metzenbaum Center, Chesterland, explained that he appears yearly before Council to familiarize them with the organization and services it provides. Rice reported that 1,133 people were served by the center with the youngest being a newborn and eldest about 92. Services include a variety of therapies for individuals with developmental disabilities with a goal to bring the younger clients to the level of typical peers. Levels of services vary as children enter the school system, but ultimately, the center reengages with transition services to explore employment opportunities. Ten years ago, there were about 35 clients in the community working and now there are 190. Once the individuals become older and cannot be supported by aging parents, Metzenbaum takes over to include 24/7 care for 200 people. In the last 20 years, this is where the expenses and services have had to shift. Porter asked for budget details, and Rice said that about \$18.5 million is spent serving the 1,133 people. 80% of this comes from local levy dollars and the remainder from federal, state, and facility rental income. He added that a portion of the funds are pass-through and go to the local schools.

**MAYOR’S REPORT:** The Mayor distributed his report. He reminded Council about upcoming meetings and training. The Mayor asked that a Building Committee meeting be scheduled for the second week in April to review the coverage of the Building Department in the absence of the Building Department Administrative Assistant and to address the transition to the iWorq software. At the next Council meeting, the Mayor wanted to appoint Ike Tripp to the Treasury Investment Board (TIB), whose qualifications were listed on the Mayor’s report. Additionally, Brad Cain and John Ovsek have agreed to serve on the Board of Building Standards and will be considered at the April 14<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

Berger stated he reviewed the minutes of the previous Council meeting and noted the Mayor’s stance on the goals, duties, and responsibilities of the Properties Committee and other committees. Berger wanted to know how this information and committee goals can be put to paper. The Fiscal Officer provided an example of this from another community. Berger continued to say that the way the Mayor defined the Properties Committee, there would not be much for it to do. The Mayor thought the Properties Committee did more work than any other committee when considering the Fall Festival

always fell under the Properties Committee and the Park Committee. He agreed that something should be done and thanked the Fiscal Officer for finding out what other communities do. His suggestion was to think about it for the rest of the year and in November they could consider developing a job description of sorts for each committee. Berger explained that the Reserve Study was assigned to the Properties Committee, but mostly involves physical plant issues, yet the Properties Committee has no influence over the physical plant, but it is supposedly trying to find out the lifespan of these assets and the plan to deal with that. Until there is clarity, he was not sure the Properties Committee could be of any usefulness in that regard. The Mayor suggested the committee take on the corner lot development and the park master plan, which would provide a few items that should keep them busy. He suggested that maybe they should look at the issue in August instead of November because making changes in the committees could affect the budget. The Mayor cautioned that they should try not to get too many chiefs and keep everybody in their lanes so there will not be so much overlapping in who is in charge and who is not.

The Solicitor asked if Mr. Tripp had a background in finance. The Mayor said he did not ask for his college degree. The Solicitor explained that the rules for the TIB require that the one resident member of the Village must have a background in finance. Cavanagh asked if this meant a degree in finance, and the Solicitor said it was not really defined. Cavanagh said Tripp ran a company. Galicki explained that in the past, the Village had a past Chief Financial Officer, and it is possible to be a Chief Executive Officer and not engage in the nitty gritty finance. Without digging into Mr. Tripp's finances, the Mayor explained that he looked at Tripp's experience of running a company for 20 years and expanding it 250% and found that sufficient. The Mayor said he would ask Mr. Tripp what his financial background was.

The Solicitor also corrected that it is not the Board of Building Standards, but the Board of Building Code Appeals, which considers matters pertaining to building construction but also hears appeals and variances of the Village's building code. The members are supposed to have a background and training pertaining to building construction. A third member is also required.

Cavanagh commented that it seemed redundant that between the Building Standards and Building Code of Appeals, the Village has these committees that set these things up. The Village has the Architectural Review Board, Planning Commission, and all these other things. The Solicitor stated that the Board of Building Code Appeals is in the Codified Ordinances. The Village has had this but has not constituted membership in a long time. It is actually very separate. If there is an appeal to the Zoning Code, it would go before the Board of Zoning Appeals. If someone is asking for a variance or appeal from the Building Code, this is totally separate. The Village adopts the Ohio Building Code. The Zoning Code is very different.

**VISITOR:** Carrie Schloss, representative of the South Russell ad hoc Committee for the Safe Pedestrian and Bicycle Transport shared the results of the survey and the committee's recommendations. Her presentation is attached.

Canton thanked Schloss for the presentation and said the survey was very comprehensive. Porter noted that 30% of the households in South Russell responded. He asked how many responses were received from residents on Bell Rd., and Schloss explained that it was not possible to determine this unless the information was offered in a comment. Bell said it was wonderful that the committee did its homework and due diligence and that he was thoroughly impressed. He wondered what the next steps will be. Schloss said that the committee met Rich Washington, the Verdantas landscape architect who will be doing the master plan for trails. She hoped he would incorporate the survey information so that

the master plan for trails and a phased action plan would reflect what the community is asking for. The Mayor said that Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30 a.m. there will be a meeting with Rich Washington by Zoom. At that time, he thought Washington would narrow the trail suggestions. The Solicitor asked whether this was a meeting of Council, and the Mayor said no, it would just be the Safe Pedestrian and Bicycle Transport Committee meeting. She clarified that Washington could not appear via Zoom and would have to be in person since this would be a committee meeting.

Kathryn Garvey, 70 E. Washington St., Chagrin Falls, applauded the group for getting so many South Russell residents to weigh in with the survey. She thought it was a great initiative and felt residents from both Chagrin Falls and South Russell who wish to access the park and Gurney Elementary School appreciate the efforts. She loved the strategic planning and cautioned that projects that are too all-encompassing can be the death of a project. The idea of phasing and prioritizing the project is respectful to the taxpayers and creates a more actionable project. In 2009, Chagrin Falls did a similar project. There is often vacillating federal and state funding available. In developing the plan, Garvey encouraged the committee to think ahead about the types of grants for which they would want to apply because each has different barriers to entry and some of the work they are doing with the strategic plan can ultimately be used in the grant application process. The Mayor asked if Garvey used a grant writer, and she stated that she wrote the grant.

Rick Smith, 36 Forest Dr., was looking forward to Washington's presentation. At the last meeting, there was discussion that when federal and/or state money is obtained, the Village must build by these regulations and this concerned him. This could mean the trail would run through someone's front yard to meet the width requirements of a path, which could be 16-feet of easement. This is huge. Should they take the money and maybe not get it or don't take their money and do something smaller like sidewalks? Cavanagh stated that the first part of the trail from Gurney to the park would impact the least number of homes. The next segment that goes to Chagrin would mean a big chunk out of these residents' front yards on Bell Rd.

Galicki asked if Garvey was engaged in the actual planning for the Chagrin Falls pathways. Garvey explained that she started the Safe Routes to School Program. Galicki clarified that on Cleveland St., there is a cantilevered bridge. Garvey said this was their top priority improvement in the plan. Galicki noted that it is on a narrow road, and said he anticipated this could be an issue the Village must consider possibly around the Cemetery or around wetlands. He asked what this bridge cost. Garvey offered to find the numbers and spoke about the committee and planning, which included ODOT and CT Consultants. She acknowledged the value of having a fully vetted plan so that people will be able to know what they are reacting to, like how much of their front yard will be lost, how the drainage ditch will be handled, etc. Galicki agreed and said without that plan, it is not possible to come up with anticipated costs for easements, land acquisitions, etc. Garvey reiterated the importance of public input. With regard to the Cleveland Street project, Garvey stated that over \$1 billion was brought in for the program to do sidewalks and walkways, with the Cleveland Street bridge being the largest. She described other aspects of the project and emphasized the importance of showing connectivity that would allow kids to walk to high school and middle school because showing the number of kids who would benefit tied into the funding they sought.

**FISCAL OFFICER:** The Fiscal Officer distributed her report. The newsletter will go out this week using TextMyGov. Regarding the bike trails, the Village's insurance, Public Entities Pool (PEP), had an article in their monthly newsletter about sidewalk pavement liability, which she included in her report.

The Mayor stated that the \$800,000 grant from the Northeast Ohio Area Coordinating Agency (NOACA) has no local taxpayer money. In 2024, the Village's income tax was \$200,000 over the previous high year. This year, the Village is over \$60,000 above previous years. The Mayor stated that Council values the residents' money and likes to take good care of it. The Village has not raised taxes since 2017 and lowered taxes twice since 2017.

He informed Council that Congressman Dave Joyce is having a townhall meeting on Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. Additionally, the Village had a request from State Representative Demetriou about whether the Village was looking for any money. The Mayor just received a one sentence reply that there would be no changes in state funding this year. The Village had asked for \$600,000 to pave the Bell Rd. neighborhood, \$47,000 to put new garage doors on the Service Department, and for a solar light for the Mason's flagpole at the park.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Canton reported that the committee met on March 21<sup>st</sup> and the minutes are forthcoming. The first of two monthly checks have been signed and crosschecked. The Credit Card Report was reviewed. **Canton made a motion to approve the March 24, 2025, Credit Card Report, seconded by Porter. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.** As noted in the Fiscal Officer's report, the total cash and investments at this point are \$3,752,156.25. There are some very big payouts in the near future to include the restroom facility and the salt building. The net income tax collections for January through March were \$231,994, \$529,095, \$674,588 respectively. This is a \$62,648 increase compared to last March of 2024. The next Finance Committee meeting will be April 18, 2025, at 3:15 p.m.

**SOLICITOR:** The Solicitor stated that in December 2024, Council received notice of an application for a liquor permit to which it objected and requested a hearing. The Department of Commerce provided potential dates for this hearing, but the applicant has submitted an application to cancel the request. The Solicitor is waiting for confirmation from the Ohio Department of Commerce before determining there is no hearing. She asked for a Council representative who could be available April 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, or 30<sup>th</sup>, to possibly attend the virtual hearing with her. The Solicitor thought she would be receiving a report that it had been cancelled and believed the applicant will be or has withdrawn the application before the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). The Fiscal Officer clarified that the applicant has withdrawn the application and has requested a refund of the fee.

**STREETS COMMITTEE:** Cavanagh reported that the Streets Committee met on March 13<sup>th</sup> and the minutes were distributed. She expressed dismay that Bell Rd. east would not be paved this year but next year instead. The committee also met that evening. Trash Day is coming up on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Cavanagh discussed hiring four people for the full day to help with Trash Day. **Cavanagh made a motion that for April 26<sup>th</sup>, South Russell Village Trash Day, that we approve hiring four assistants from other local service units to help us on Trash Day, seconded by Galicki. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

The Mayor advised that the injured Service Department employee will be out until at least June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Mayor asked if the Village has a policy where someone like that has to have a physical or can they just go on a doctor's note that he can come back. The Fiscal Officer stated that the practice has been that to return to work, they have to have a note from their doctor stating that they can meet the qualifications of their job. There is no requirement for a physical.

Cavanagh reviewed the requirements of senior citizens to participate in Trash Day, which included registering yearly with the Department on Aging. The pickup dates will be April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

**BUILDING COMMITTEE:** Cavanagh spoke with Dave Hocevar, who is busier this year than last year. They are hoping the Building Department Administrative Assistant comes back and appreciate the use of the full and part-time Administrative Assistants in keeping the office open and serving the residents and contractors. She thanked the Fiscal Officer for extending the use of the staff.

**POLICE CHIEF:** The Chief advised that he added the quote from ADP regarding their IT services to the committee minutes. The committee is still working on this matter and will have a meeting with another vendor next month. The grand total for ADP to take over the Police Department services is \$85,392.83. The ADP portion is \$56,142 and the cable communications portion is \$27,150. The remainder is the internet change to fiber. Galicki asked if this included the phone system, and the Chief concurred. The Chief said that ADP also recommended replacement of the Police Department cameras on the quote. Cavanagh asked if the price was high due to the one-time charge, and the Chief agreed and said the recurring fee would be \$5,077 in the first year and then \$3,400 for the next two years. However, there would be a four-to-five-year rotation of equipment meaning another significant purchase in five years. He noted that it was a significant amount of money, and more research was needed to consider other options.

**SAFETY COMMITTEE:** Bell reported that the committee met on March 13<sup>th</sup> and the minutes were distributed. He reiterated that the committee is looking at alternatives to the ADP proposal including speaking with a provider for Russell Township. Bell explained that the department is currently connecting to the Geauga County Sheriff through a VPN, and while connected to that VPN, the department is being monitored by ADP at no cost to the Village. The Chief concurred and added that all the department's computers are using CrowdStrike that ADP provides to Geauga County who provided it to the Police Department. In a sense, the department is being monitored but just does not have an IT contract provider. Bell concluded that these are some of the details the committee is addressing. The Chief added that as a matter of course, the department regularly replaces equipment as part of the regular budget. In making a jump to an outside IT vendor, however, it involves a significant one-time purchase of a lot of the equipment every five years, which has a substantial impact.

**Bell made a motion to acknowledge the resignation of Kailey Gavanditti, seconded by Galicki. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.** Canton asked how long she was with the Village, and the Chief said about two years. Bell advised that with this resignation, applications are being sought for one full-time officer in conjunction with soliciting applications for at least one part-time officer or possibly two. There is a meeting scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. for HR and Safety to do some interviews. **Bell made a motion to ratify the approval of advertising for the open positions in the Police Department, seconded by Galicki. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

The next regular Safety Committee meeting is April 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. in the Police Department.

**HR COMMITTEE:** Bell stated the committee met that night with the Streets Committee and will be meeting again with the Streets Committee April 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. to continue the discussion about going out to advertise for a part-time or full-time employee for the Service Department. There is homework that needs to be done before getting to that decision. The next regularly scheduled HR Committee meeting is April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. in Village Hall.

**PROPERTIES COMMITTEE:** Berger reported that the committee will meet the following morning, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

**PARKS COMMITTEE:** Berger stated that Cavanagh had been working on his behalf to set up a Parks Committee meeting and will continue to work on it. There is a request by the Chagrin Falls Middle School Cross Country Team to use the park. **Berger made a motion to approve the reservation application for August 26<sup>th</sup>, September 24<sup>th</sup>, and September 30<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for the park and to waive the pavilion rental fee, seconded by Porter.** Parking and attendance were discussed. The Mayor indicated the school has its own committee that handles the parking. **Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

Canton noted that by the next Council meeting, the park restroom should have been installed. Cavanagh said this is correct and that it would be ready by the end of the week, but added the Street Commissioner would need to address the delivery date.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE:** Porter addressed the grant status for the solar panels, and the Fiscal Officer explained that the Village received acknowledgement of having registered for the grant but had heard nothing further about receiving it.

The next Public Utilities Committee meeting will take place April 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:15 p.m. to discuss the ongoing projects and the tree issue with the Central Retention Basin. Porter asked the Mayor and Canton if anymore discussion was needed on this topic, and Canton said that the committee determined it was something the Village should probably do. Porter concurred. The Mayor said that if trees were going to be planted, it would be nice to put a stake in the ground to say where they would go. Canton felt there needed to be a written plan which included the resident and the Village involved to do it right. He clarified the trees should be planted on Village property. **Porter made a motion that the Mayor, Street Department, and the Engineer come up with a plan for the planting of up to six trees along the southern berm of the Central Retention Basin on Village property by working with Verdantas, seconded by Canton.** Galicki asked what the dollar amount would be and recalled that \$500 per tree was determined from an identified source. Porter clarified that his motion was just for a plan. Bell offered an amendment to the motion to include the east side of the Central Retention Basin for tree plantings for those who have suffered a great loss of screening from their backyards. **Porter amended the motion to include a plan for the planting of trees on or around the Central Retention Basin on Village property with an amount per tree not more than \$500 pursuant to a plan to be proposed by Verdantas in connection with that project.** With this amendment, Galicki asked how many trees were being considered, because in the previous version of the motion, there was a dollar amount of \$500 each for six trees. He did not want to get into a \$10,000 project. Porter explained that the motion was for a plan and a cost per tree, but Council would have to authorize the expenditure of those funds down the road per the plan. They are not going to authorize a plan of 900 trees, but 4 trees would not be enough. It would be somewhere between those two extremes, and the committee would discuss this at the next Public Utilities Committee meeting, which hopefully would be attended by the Engineer or Washington. Porter did not mind the trees on the eastern or southern side, and perhaps they are needed all around, but they would leave that up to the landscape architect.

Galicki said that given the limitation of the Properties Committee with now only dealing with land, he questioned whether this would more appropriately be introduced by the Chair of the Properties Committee? Porter said that down the road he would be happy to turn the project over to the Properties Committee, but since every time trees have been planted, as noted before, it helps stormwater. Furthermore, it is on the Central Retention Basin, which is the lynchpin of stormwater management control within the Village. The Fiscal Officer asked for clarification. Although the price per tree was specified, she verified that Porter was only really authorizing creating a plan, and asked how much Council was willing to spend for the plan. The Mayor recommended taking the money out.

Porter stated that they would not want the landscape architect to think they were planting redwoods. It would be a \$500 cap on the cost per tree. The Fiscal Officer asked how much the cap would be for developing the project. Porter did not know, and said that was the guidance for the planner, not a budgetary item down the road. Bell proposed just buying some saplings and planting them. **Canton seconded the motion.** The Mayor asked the Fiscal Officer to restate the motion, and she said she could not because she did not understand it. If Council is authorizing the plan, they must determine the amount of money that will be paid to Verdantas to develop the plan, which Council must approve. **Porter amended the motion to include that not more than \$10,000 for the plan would be more than sufficient.** Bell questioned this amount for a tree planting. Galicki asked if the Village really needed an engineering firm to tell them where to put the trees. They cannot just go out with the Engineer and indicate where they should go? Porter thought Planning Commission would need to be consulted as it was with the Manor Brook project. Galicki questioned whether this was necessary on Village property. Porter offered that the Chief went to Planning Commission for the garage addition. The Mayor suggested that Council vote the motion down and instead have a new motion for Verdantas to work with Council to develop a plan for trees in the Village and leave it at that. He thought there would be trees needed this summer behind the salt structure. When the Village put arborvitae in at Manor Brook, it was \$1,000 per tree to be planted. Saplings take 20 years to grow. **Porter made a motion that the Mayor, Fiscal Officer, and Engineer enter into an agreement with Verdantas with regard to the production of a landscaping plan for the Central Retention Basin to focus on the south side and the east side of that basin for the purpose of planting trees and screening the adjoining properties at a cost to the Village for Verdantas not more than \$10,000 as a guideline for trees, \$500 per tree, seconded by Canton.** As a point of order, Galicki said there was a previous motion that was moved and seconded and wanted to know whether the current motion negated the previous motion. The Solicitor said it should if it is an amendment. Bell was trying to clarify why a formal plan was needed from an engineering firm for Planning Commission or whomever. Canton thought there had been objections by Galicki of an activity because there was no written plan. Galicki was not sure what Canton was referring to, so he could not address it. Porter said that Planning Commission will review a written plan from an engineering firm for landscaping in a far more positive light than a hand drawn one on a cocktail napkin. Galicki acknowledged that sometimes there are plans and sometimes the Village does not have plans depending on the way the wind is blowing. Canton said the reason he initially promoted a written official plan was because of something Galicki said. Galicki advised that when Porter initially addressed the resident wanting the trees, he indicated to Galicki that the plan showed the trees on the resident's property. That may have been in error or hearsay, but his point at the time was that if the Village will be planting trees, it should not be on private property but on Village property. Porter thought it was better to have a plan. It started out as a few trees and became a larger project. It would be better to have a professional produce something in writing that states what the correct type of tree is given the soil conditions and location, etc. and then Council can evaluate whether it is worthwhile and worthy of being presented to Planning Commission to solve the problem that was originally identified.

The Solicitor clarified that this matter would not go before Planning Commission. Manor Brook had to go before Planning Commission because it was on an easement and the conditions of the easement were that Planning Commission wanted trees in certain spots. This is very different, and it would not go to Planning Commission. **Roll call – ayes, Porter, Bell, Canton, and Cavanagh. Nays – Galicki and Berger. Motion carried.**

Canton asked if the committee is to look at the tree trimming by the electric power lines where there is a problem with flooding by the houses. The Mayor responded that last week the Engineer and Street Commissioner walked the area and are going to provide suggestions.

The Mayor addressed the MS4 Report draft and pointed out an issue with the statement about the Village collecting motor oil at Trash Day. Porter said that the Village collects motor oil, but it is from its own vehicles and it is recycled.

Kensington Green is getting closer to an agreement, and he thanked the previous Public Utilities Committee for its efforts.

#### **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

Cavanagh introduced an ordinance repealing Ordinance 2024-76, approving the 5-year Facility Services Rental Agreement between Cintas Corporation and the Village of South Russell for shop towels and mats only in an amount not to exceed \$21,900 authorizing the Street Commissioner to execute the agreement on behalf of the Village and declaring an emergency. Cavanagh made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Porter. Roll call ayes - all. Motion carried. Cavanagh made a motion to adopt, seconded by Porter. Roll call - ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2025-20**

Cavanagh introduced an ordinance approving the Participating Addendum between the Village of South Russell and Canon USA for the purpose of participating in the NASPO Program for Multi-function Devices and Related Software, Services and Cloud Solutions relating to the copier for the Building Department purchased from Lake Business Products, ratifying the Mayor's execution of such Participating Addendum on March 11, 2025, and declaring an emergency. Cavanagh made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Porter. Roll call ayes - all. Motion carried. Cavanagh made a motion to adopt, seconded by Porter. Roll call - ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2025-21**

Bell introduced an ordinance approving the proposal and payment terms between the Village of South Russell and Roubic Tree Service, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$700.00 for tree trimming, topping, and thinning of certain trees near the Village's solar powered school zone flasher, authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to execute the proposal and payment terms on behalf of the Village, and declaring an emergency. Bell made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Bell made a motion to adopt, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2025-22**

Bell introduced an ordinance approving the renewal of the Workers' Compensation Service Agency Agreement between the Village of South Russell and Sedgwick Claims Management Services, Inc. in the amount of \$465 for the services for the annual contract period beginning July 1, 2025 for the Ohio Workers' Compensation Group Rating Program and policy year for the Group Rating Enrollment for January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026, authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to execute the agreement on behalf of the Village, and declaring an emergency. Bell made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Berger. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Bell made a motion to adopt, seconded by Berger. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2025-23**

**BILLS LIST:** Canton made a motion to ratify the bills list of March 14, 2025, in the amount of \$124,533.00, seconded by Berger. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

**NEW/OTHER:** Bell, Berger, and Canton had no new business.

Galicki invited the other Council members to join him in contributing to the Harvest for Hunger Program. They come from an affluent community in South Russell, and it is a nice thing to remember those who are less fortunate. Bell asked how long the boxes would be in Village Hall, and the Fiscal Officer said until March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Porter asked how much the part-time help is being paid for Trash Day. The Fiscal Officer explained they receive what they are paid in their own communities, and the Village is billed for their pay along



with the taxes and OPERS. Porter asked the Solicitor to attend the Public Utilities Committee meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:15 p.m. to discuss Kensington Green's counter proposal to the Village for the purposes of monitoring Bullfrog Pond.

Cavanagh reported on the America 250<sup>th</sup> meeting and asked CEI if the Village can put hometown hero banners on the telephone poles. She would like to go forward with this project to honor the Village's Veterans.

Cavanagh reminded the Properties Committee to renew the Farmers' Market agreement, and she has the contact information for the representative.

The Mayor said that Dean Hayne from First Energy requested to speak to Council, and the Mayor delayed this until April. The Fire Prevention Officer will come in June to discuss his program and the agreement with Chagrin Falls.

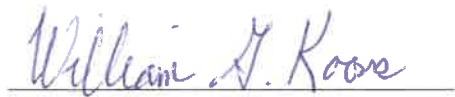
Bell made a motion at 8:43 p.m. to enter into executive session for the purposes of considering the employment of a public employee and compensation of a public employee pursuant to Section 121.22 (G)(1) of the Ohio Revised Code and invite into executive session the Mayor, Fiscal Officer, and Solicitor, seconded by Berger. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Council reconvened at 8:55 p.m.

Bell made a motion to allow Village employees to donate sick time to an employee of the Building Department not to exceed a sum of 30 days, seconded by Berger. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

**Bell made a motion approving the removal of the probationary period as it is complete for the newly hired Street Commissioner, seconded by Berger. Voice vote – ayes, Porter, Bell, Berger, Canton, and Cavanagh. Nay – Galicki. Motion carried.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Being that there was no further business before Council, Porter made a motion to adjourn at 8:57 p.m., seconded by Bell. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.



William G. Koons, Mayor



Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer

Prepared by Leslie Galicki



## **Pedestrian & Bicycle Transport in South Russell Survey Nov 2024 - Feb 2025**

### **South Russell Committee for Safe Bicycle and Pedestrian Transport**

Ad Hoc Committee formed 10/14/24 via a recommendation by Mayor Koons and approved through unanimous council vote - 60 community members have been involved

#### **Committee Goal:**

**To evaluate and plan for safe bicycle and pedestrian transport through community engagement, safety education, and infrastructure improvements.**

#### **Committee duties:**

- 1. Engaging and learning from the community about bicycle and pedestrian safety needs**
- 2. Developing a safe bicycle and pedestrian access plan**
- 3. Making recommendations to the village council on the selection of bicycle and pedestrian projects to be submitted for state and federal funding opportunities**
- 4. Working with staff to promote bicycling and walking as safe and healthy modes of transportation, including safe routes to schools**
- 5. Assisting staff in the planning, operations, and maintenance of bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the village**

# What was the purpose of the survey?

## South Russell Survey Intention (approved November 2024)

1. Use the results to provide information to Council/Mayor on the
  - a. Desire of residents to walk/bike/run in South Russell
  - b. Safety barriers to doing so
  - c. Support or opposition to different types of projects in different locations
2. Use the results to inform our a phased action plan for projects in SRV
  - a. Phase actions based on community needs/identified barriers
  - b. Use insights from the survey to help SRV apply for grants for projects identified above

In the survey and results **walk/bike** refers to all modes of active transport including walking, running, bicycling, and use of a wheel chair or other mobility device



## Widely distributed through various channels

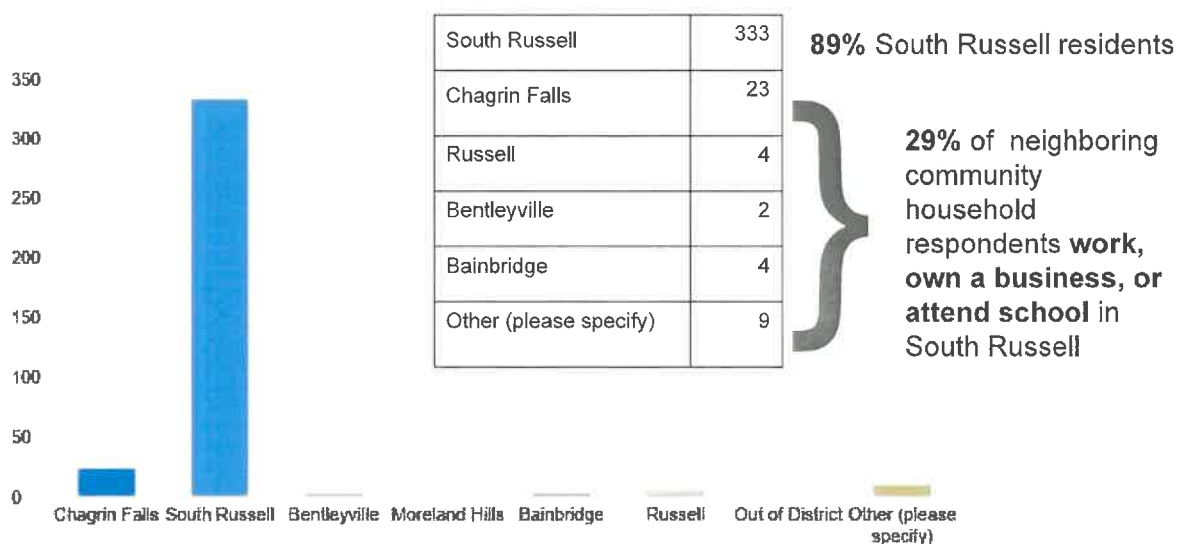
- South Russell Village Newsletter
- Social media
- Direct contact through emails or phone calls with every HOA president for distribution to HOA residents
- Flyers hung in businesses throughout the community
- Flyers delivered to individual houses (locations based on volunteer availability (e.g. every house on Bell Rd between Waverly and Ridgewood, some HOAs))

Survey was open Nov 2024 - Feb 14, 2025

373 Household Responses (1 household per response)

## Very High Response Rate - South Russell Residents

373 total households

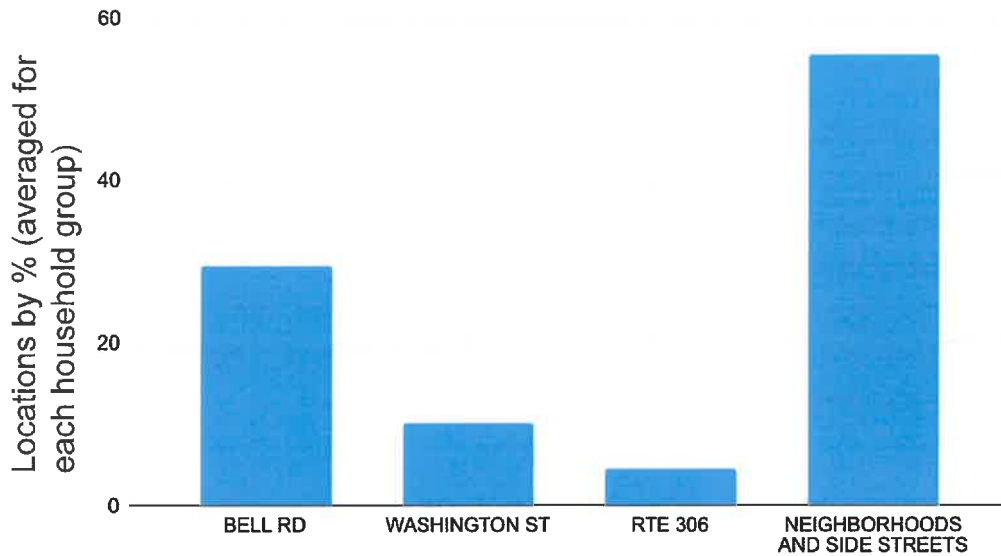


**I. What is the desire of the community to walk/bike in South Russell?**

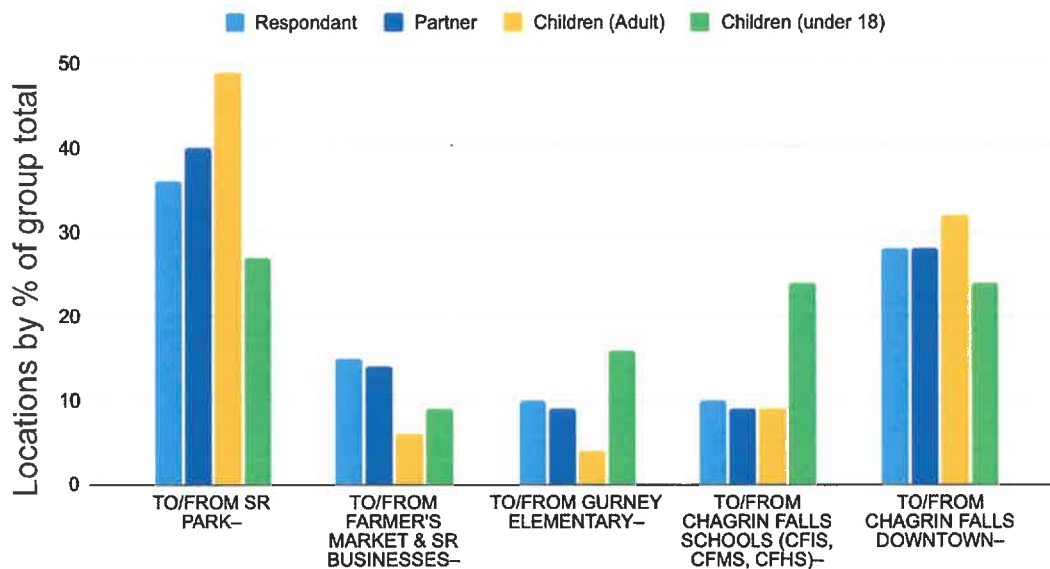
- II. What improvements would cause residents to walk/bike more often in South Russell?
- III. What is the support or opposition for different improvements in different locations?

**91% of respondents** have at least one member of the household who walk or bike in South Russell daily, very frequently, often or sometimes

### Where are households walking and biking?



### Where are households walking and biking?



# What is the desire of the community to walk/bike in South Russell?

## Key Insights:

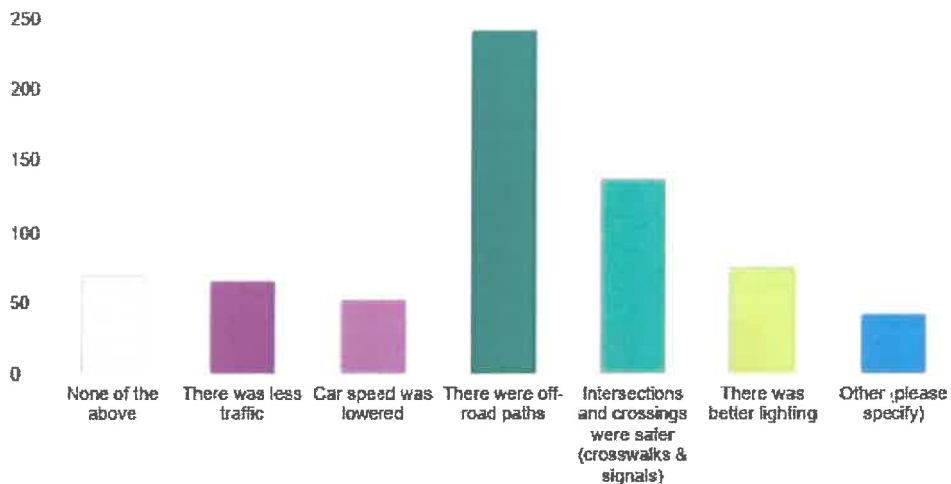
- Members in 91% of households walk/bike in South Russell daily, very frequently, often, or sometimes
- 56% of the pedestrian/bicycle use is within neighborhoods
- 30% of the pedestrian/bicycle use is on Bell
- Most pedestrian/bicycle transport is to **South Russell Village Park**
- Most pedestrian/bicycle transport among **children** is to Chagrin Falls **Schools** (Gurney Elementary, CFIS, CFMS, CFHS)

I. What is the desire of the community to walk/bike in South Russell?

## II. What improvements would cause residents to walk/bike more often in South Russell?

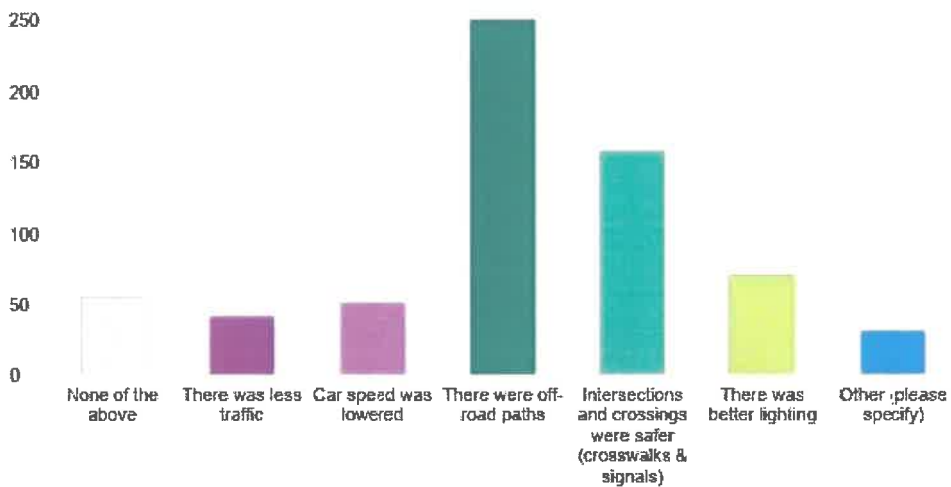
III. What is the support or opposition for different improvements in different locations?

## Which improvements would cause members of your household to walk/bike more often on **Bell Rd - East of 306?**



Powered by  SurveyMonkey

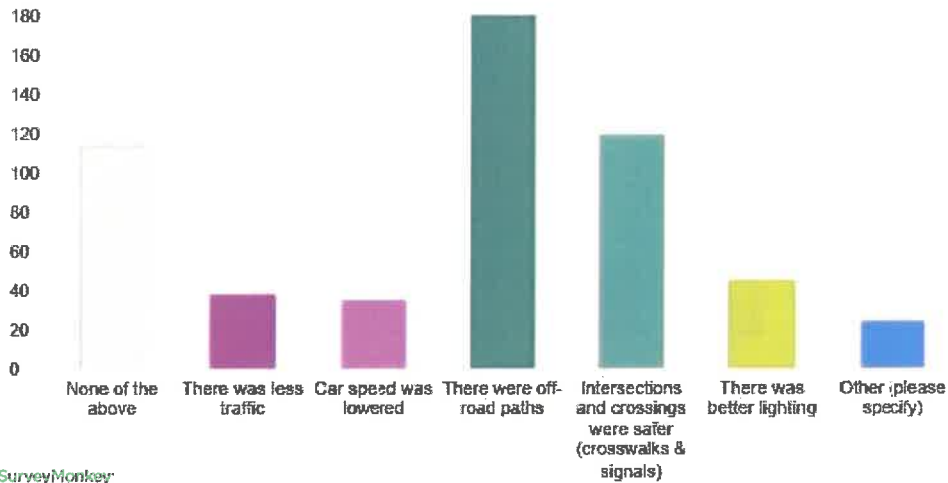
## Which improvements would cause members of your household to walk/bike more often to/from **South Russell Village Park?**



Powered by  SurveyMonkey

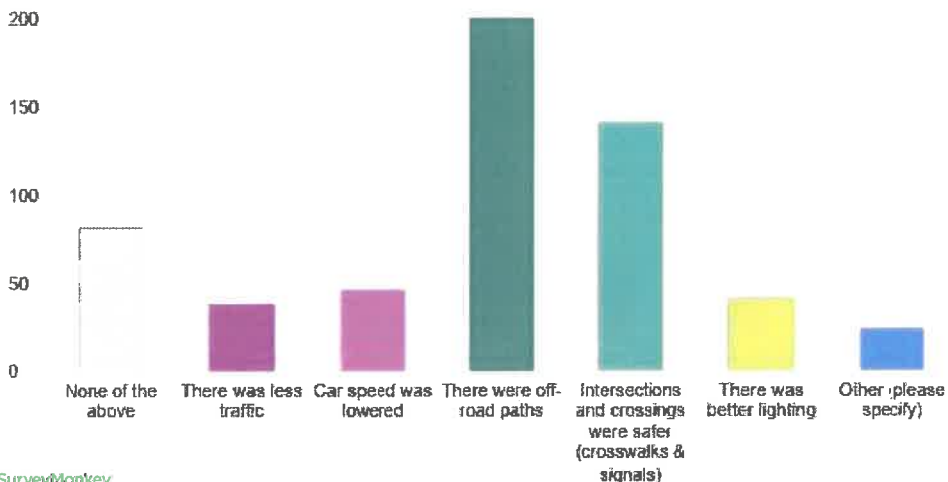


## Which improvements would cause members of your household to walk/bike more often to/from **Gurney Elementary**?



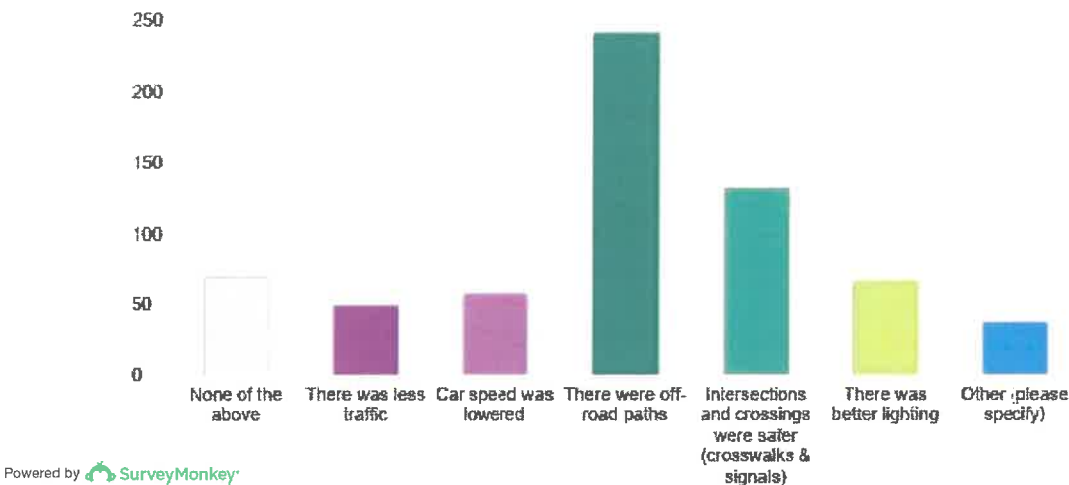
Powered by  SurveyMonkey

## Which improvements would cause members of your household to walk/bike more often to/from **Farmer's Market & Businesses in South Russell near Bell and 306**?



Powered by  SurveyMonkey

## Which improvements would cause members of your household to walk/bike more often to/from **Downtown Chagrin Falls via Bell Street?**

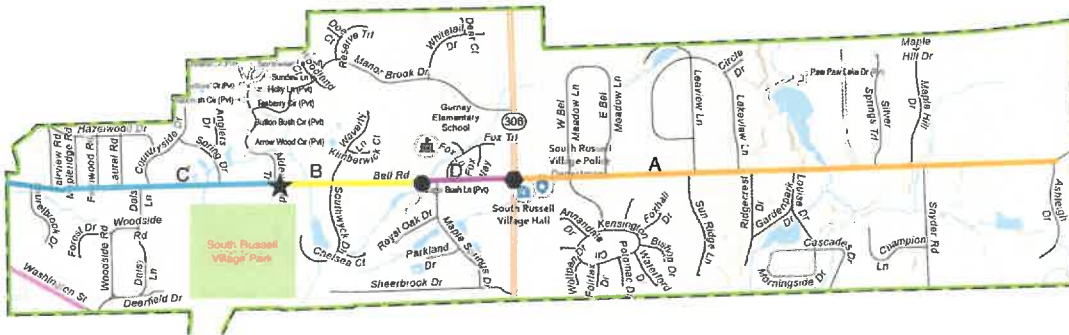


## What improvements would enable residents to walk/bike more often in South Russell?

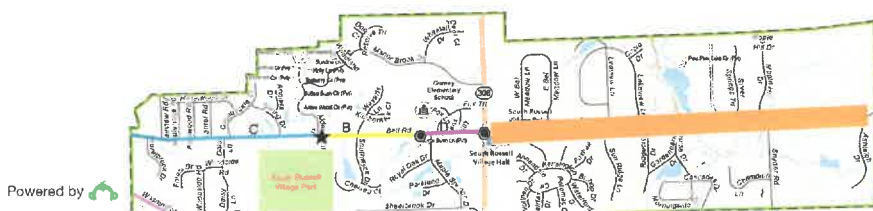
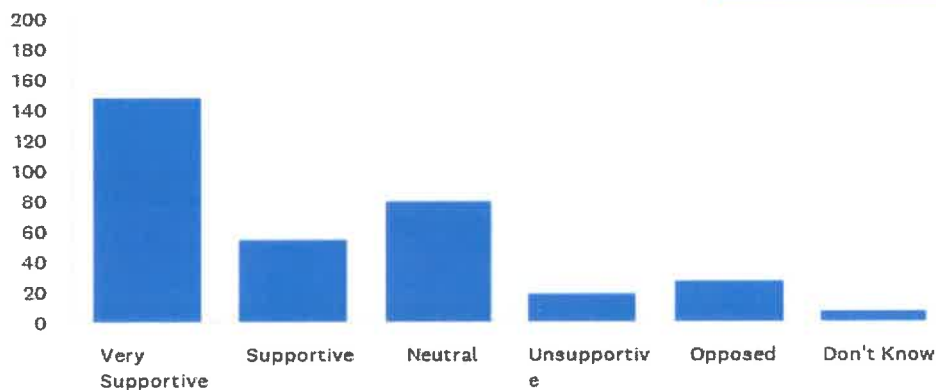
### Key Insights:

- **Off-road paths** are the **#1 infrastructure improvement** that would allow the community to walk/bike more often to all destinations
- **Safer intersections and crossings** (crosswalks and signals) are the second most cited improvement that would allow the community to walk/bike more often to all destinations
- Off-road paths and safer intersections/crossings **to/from South Russell Village Park** would allow the most community members to walk/bike more often (250 households for off-road paths)

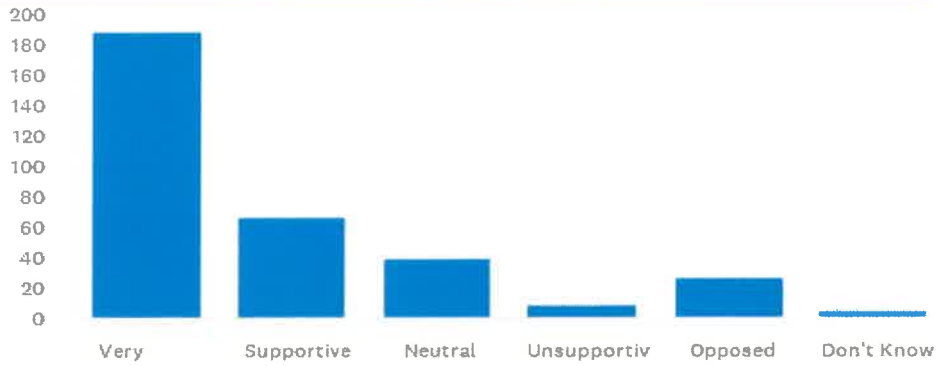
- I. What is the desire of the community to walk/bike in South Russell?
- II. What improvements would cause residents to walk/bike more often in South Russell?
- III. What is the support or opposition for different improvements in different locations?



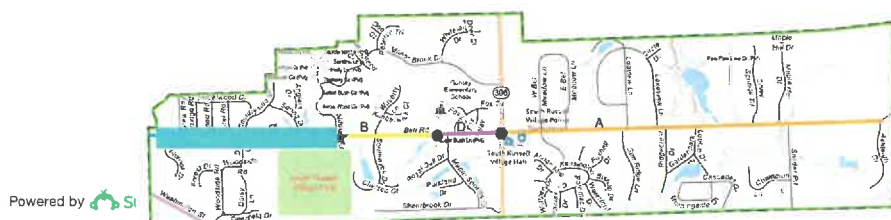
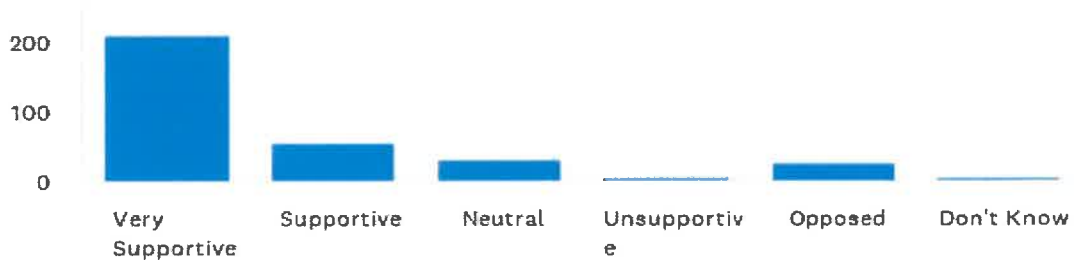
Level of Support for an off-road path on Bell Rd East of 306



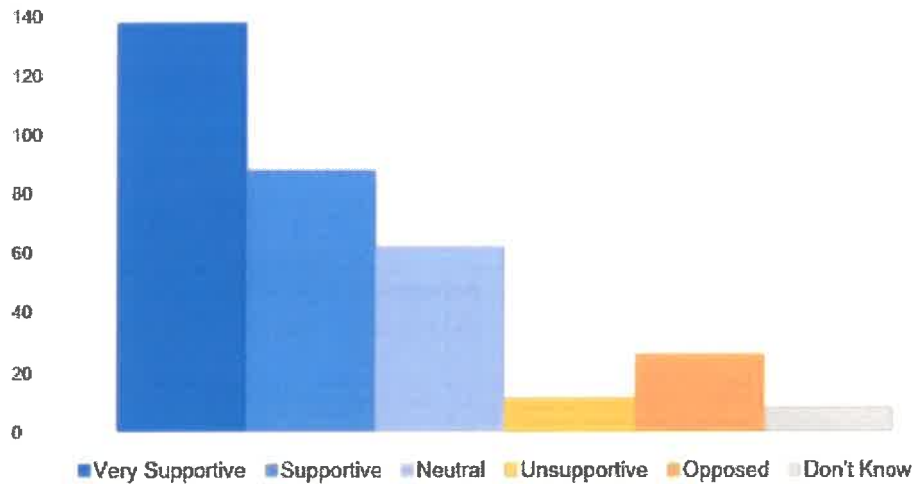
## Level of Support for an off-road path on Bell Rd between Gurney Elementary and South Russell Village Park



## Level of Support for an off-road path on Bell Rd between South Russell Village Park and the Village of Chagrin Falls

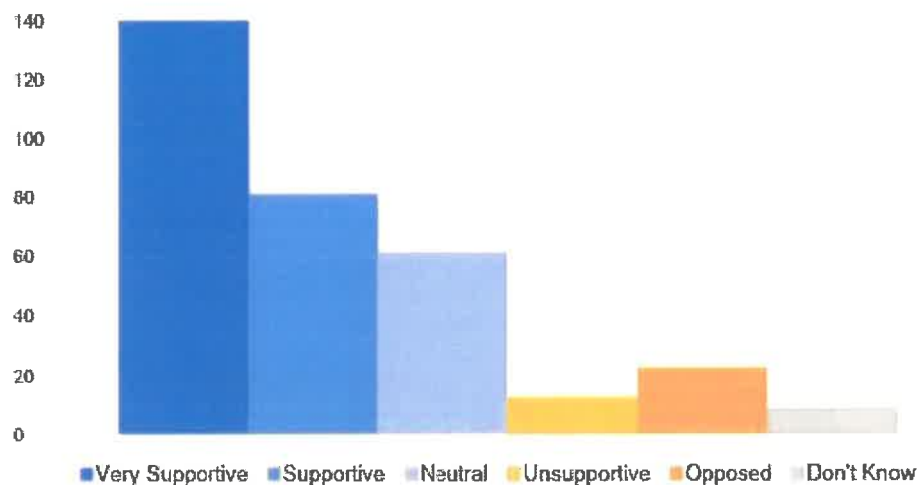


## Level of Support for a crosswalk and pedestrian signals at the intersection of 306 and Bell



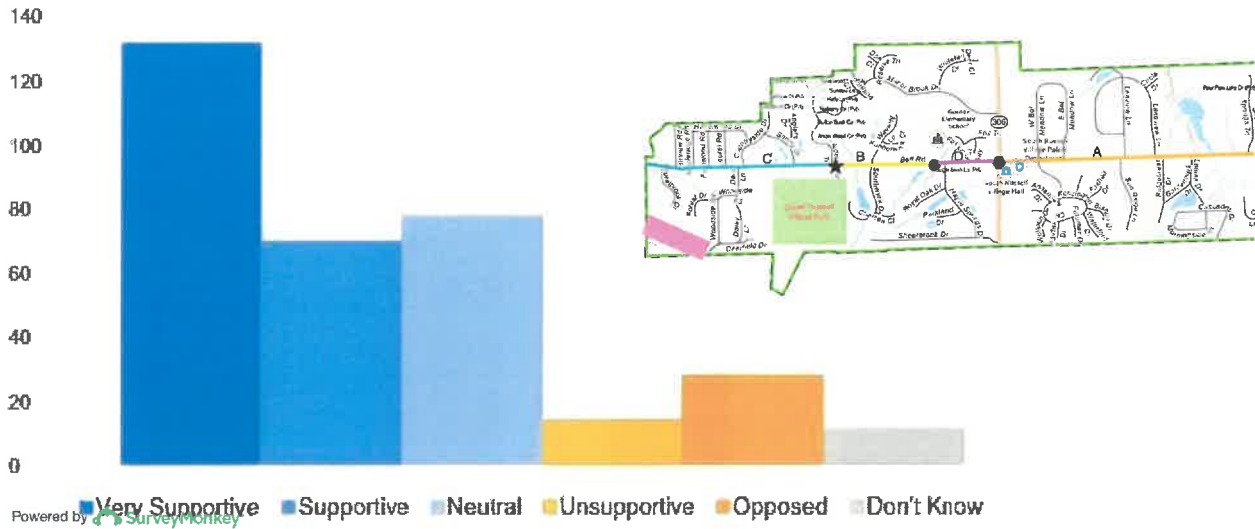
Powered by  SurveyMonkey

## Level of Support for a crosswalk and pedestrian signals at the intersection of Bell Rd and Gurney Elementary



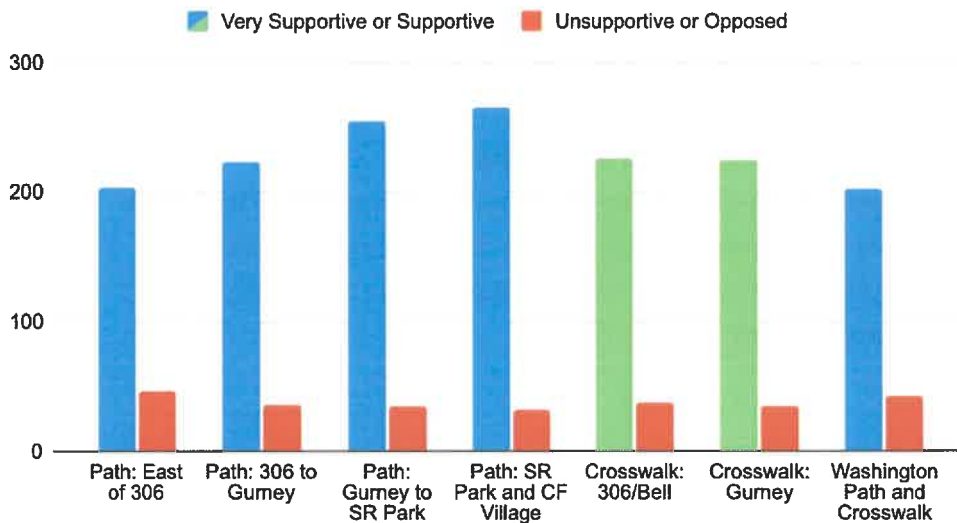
Powered by  SurveyMonkey

# Level of Support for an off-road path plus crosswalk and pedestrian signals on E Washington St in South Russell between Daisy Lane and Burntwood Tavern.

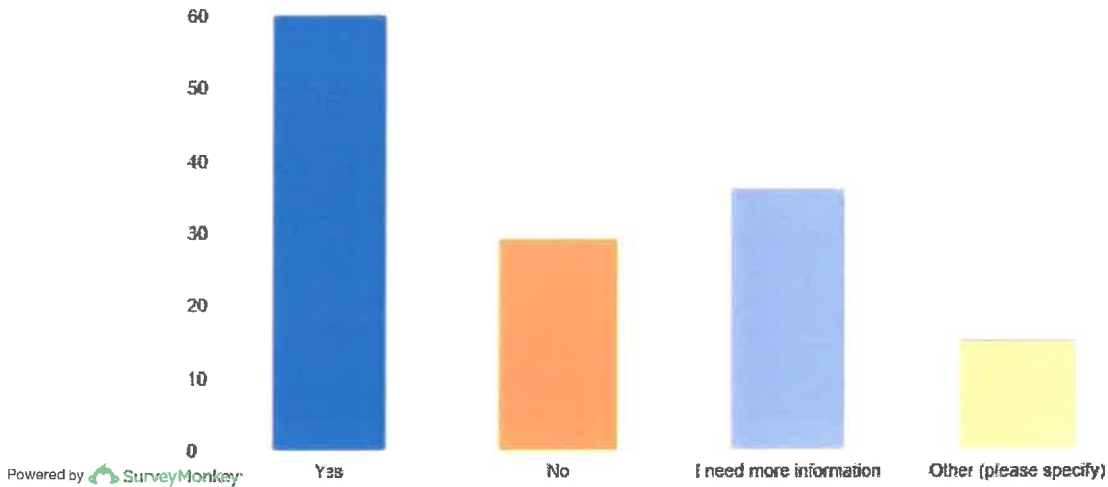


Support for paths and infrastructure improvements is both broad and enthusiastic. Highest support is for off-road paths on Bell Western segments along Bell have higher support than eastern segments

## Very Supportive or Supportive vs Unsupportive or Opposed



For respondents that chose neutral, unsupportive or opposed for one or more projects. Are they likely to support infrastructure improvements in those areas if partially funded by a State or Federal Grant?



## What is the support or opposition for different improvements in different locations?

### Key Insights:

- **Significant support** for all off-road paths and crossings
- Support is **highest for off-road paths**
- Support increases in the **western segments**
- The highest support is in both of the segments **connecting to South Russell park** (from Gurney Elementary or from Chagrin Falls)
- 60 households would move from neutral/opposed to supportive if improvements were **funded by grants**



## What are the residents concerns?

Maintaining the rural character of the community

- Ensure rural character is a key component of design



Small Town *and* Rural Design Guide

Facilities for Walking and Biking

<https://ruraldesignguide.com/information>



Cost

- \$800k in federal funds for walk/bike paths
- Commit to identifying more funding opportunities

Bell was already widened, isn't that sufficient?

Wider streets promote faster driving speeds  
Faster driving speeds narrow peripheral vision.  
Faster driving speeds increase the likelihood of pedestrian death in collisions  
Safety measures therefore are still needed

## Voices from the community

"... An off-road path from our house to downtown Chagrin would be life-changing - not exaggerating! We will not walk or bike on Bell Rd. without it due to safety concerns, but we would absolutely love this!"

"We live on Bell Road and would greatly support paths being added the entire length of Bell. It would be wonderful to be able to safely traverse SRV on foot. We would gladly support an easement into our property to widen Bell to create space for a path."

"No brainer. Paths have proven to build a "community". Spend the money. Happy to pay taxes for this."

"South Russell prides itself on being a safe and family oriented community, yet it lacks basic safety measure necessary for residents to easily access and enjoy parks, local businesses, and neighbors. Sidewalks/off-road-paths, in addition to safe crosswalks, would greatly enhance the daily lives of residents, increase the sense of community, and promote physical activity."

Current situation stinks. can't believe there haven't been more bike or runner deaths because of no sidewalks/paths.

"We have been dying for sidewalks to safely walk to town most of all. Stroller friendly please! I would support this in any way I can. It would be a game changer for our community!"

"As a family, we currently don't bike around town or to town, because it's simply far too dangerous. It would be incredible to have biking/walking paths to use to get to the park, schools, downtown, and businesses on Washington! How wonderful to be able to bike to dinner and back or ride bikes to get ice cream. This would greatly improve our community and encourage people to get out from behind their screens to exercise and enjoy our beautiful community."



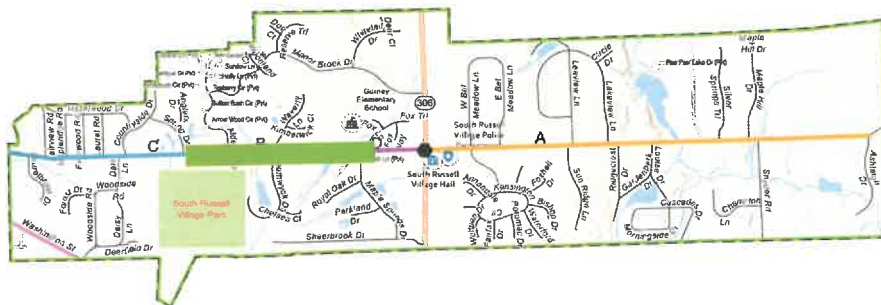
## Committee Insights and Recommendations

- Improved infrastructure of bicycle and pedestrian transport is highly desired in this community
- Prioritize connecting residents to South Russell Park
- Prioritize connecting children to schools
- As much as possible - fund infrastructure with grants
- Keep the rural character of the community in path design
- Make sure to take a phased and actionable approach

## Committee Phase Recommendations

### Phase 1.

1. Bell Rd. Crossing at Alderwood (underway)
2. Off-road path on Bell Rd. from Fox Run past Gurney Elementary through South Russell Park to Spring Drive.
3. Off-road path on Bell Rd from Chagrin Lakes to Sugarbush.
4. Bell Rd. Crossing at Gurney Elementary



Less than 1 mile of path that connects more than 50% of residents to park and school and each other!

## Committee Phase Recommendations

### Phase 1.

1. Bell Rd. Crossing at Alderwood (underway)
2. Off-road path on Bell Rd. from Fox Run past Gurney Elementary through South Russell Park to Spring Drive.
3. Off-road path on Bell Rd from Chagrin Lakes to Sugarbush.
4. Bell Rd. Crossing at Gurney Elementary

### Phase 2.

1. Off-road path on Bell Rd. from Spring Drive to Chagrin Falls
2. Off-road path on Bell Rd. from Chagrin Lakes to 306.
3. Crossing at 306 and Bell Rd.
4. Off-road path on Bell Rd. east of 306 to Sun Ridge

### Phase 3.

1. Off-road path and crossing on Washington
2. Improved infrastructure in neighborhoods/HOAs



**Thank you!**

**Open comments** - sorted by support of paths on Bell (79 comments) or opposition to paths (14 comments), and other areas or topics (17 comments).

<b>Paths - Supportive Comments (n=79)</b>
Sidewalks on Bell Road would be such an amazing addition to this community and safety for both drivers and people who love to walk
We appreciate the widened Bell, but a segregated walking / biking path would be even better.
It would be nice to have at least one walking route with off road paths/sidewalks connecting Rolling Ridge to Chagrin Falls sidewalks. I personally prefer Bell St but it might be less homeowner controversy down Washington. I have small children and don't feel comfortable walking in the area.
We only drive to SR park because it is not safe to walk. We would go multiple times a week if there was a sidewalk from laurelbrook to the park.
Would love a side walk or path on bell east of 306. Bikers in general on that street are dangerous. It's hilly and sometimes u don't even know they are there. A path would be nice.
I am hesitant to bike on Bell east of 306 due to the (at times) high speed of cars driving by and their disregard for bikers. There is very little margin for error when cars do not move away from bikers and allow them the required 3 ft. I would like to see a more defined cross walk/ safe area to cross 306 going west on Bell toward the Village. thank you
I just would love a safe option for runners/bikers, especially on Bell by Gurney and the East side of 306. I've seen too many runners/walkers nearly get hit (and it's not always at the direct fault of the driver, many pedestrians put far too much faith in drivers and don't pay attention or wear dark colors at dusk/morning). Even if sidewalks aren't an option I do think better lighting at a minimum is necessary. I'm very concerned someone will get hurt.
A safe Bike/walk path down all of bell would be incredible.
When dark, walking and biking seems very unsafe
You raised taxes by 12%- use the money for sidewalks so it's safer for our kids. The neighborhood is growing and we need to put stronger safety measures in place
Would love a path between Burntwood to Daisy lane! And a lower speed limit. I'm working with Chagrin on getting speed limit down Washington lowered.
need a paved bike path from Snyder road to the village completely separate from Bell road. (a bigger shoulder is NOT a bike path and not much help)
A bike path would improve quality of life for this area, I strongly support it.
The road margins along Bell east of 306 are narrow and in poor condition in some areas. Cyclists have to ride in the traffic lanes and cars passing crowd cyclists or have to wait to pass near the crest of hills. A wider shoulder if not an outright bike lane in both directions would lead to much safer conditions.
We live on Bell Road and would greatly support paths being added the entire length of Bell. It would be wonderful to be able to safely traverse SRV on foot. We would gladly support an easement into our property to widen Bell to create space for a path.

<p>If the goal is to make SRV more pedestrian and cyclists friendly, the focus should be on (a) bike paths east of 306, (b) a crossing at 306 and Bell, and (c) bike paths west of 306 (the shoulder is wider west of 306).</p>
<p>I don't allow my kids near bell. It's not safe for them. It's a shame we do not have sidewalks from 306 down bell into chagrin falls. It would be heavily utilized</p>
<p>Bike lanes are far too narrow to be safe</p>
<p>Although we might not use the improvements much, we wholeheartedly support them for the community.</p>
<p>Currently people are walking, running and biking up and down Bell Road from Lake Louise area towards town daily and it is terrifying! There is just not enough room on the road, the speeds are high and there are many hills that can hide your view and cause close encounters. Having a separate bike/walk path would eliminate so many close calls.</p>
<p>I think this is a TOP priority for our village and would welcome donating my time / effort to help out. I am in full support of the path running the full stretch east and west of 306 to downtown Chagrin. I realize the South Russell Park land was donated to be kept as a nature preserve. However, for the safety of our citizens, I'd like to see a straight asphalt path connecting Bell and Washington going through the park, rather than curved through Rolling Ridge. It would be safer (no intersections) and less hassle to residents. I would also suggest this path be asphalt (not pebbles/wood chips[too soft] nor cement [too costly]), to be maintained by the village and not the citizens. I don't think it's fair to burden homeowners who live along the path to have to pay to maintain it. Also - I think the path would be OK to 'close' in the winter and not require it to be cleared of snow. It is for recreational use, and very few people are out walking or riding anything in the winter time here. Seasonal is perfectly fine. There are cross-country skiers who would benefit!</p>
<p>This is so great to hear an off-road path is being considered. An off-road path from our house to downtown Chagrin would be life-changing – not exaggerating! We will not walk or bike on Bell Rd. without it due to safety concerns, but we would absolutely love this!</p>
<p>I would love to make it easier/safer to bike in our community!</p>
<p>Current situation stinks, can't believe there haven't been more bike or runner deaths because of no sidewalks/paths</p>
<p>No brainer. Paths have proven to build a "community". Spend the money. Happy to pay taxes for this.</p>
<p>A community where families, children and residents could bike and walk between our villages would be a huge improvement for the future. I also believe it would add a lot of value to our community. When I ride my road bike even on Bell Road I frankly don't feel safe with all the distracted drivers.</p>
<p>South Russell prides itself on being a safe and family oriented community, yet it lacks basic safety measure necessary for residents to easily access and enjoy parks, local businesses, and neighbors. Sidewalks/off-road-paths, in addition to safe crosswalks, would greatly enhance the daily lives of residents, increase the sense of community, and promote physical activity.</p>

Sidewalks, sidewalks, sidewalks
Our family loves walking, running, and biking. I just took my kids on a bike ride 2 days ago and one of my kids was terrified on Bell. It would be so great if we could get a path that isn't on top of the road so everyone can feel safer. Drivers do not pay attention to people walking or biking. When we go to other cities where people can bike/walk everywhere we definitely drive less and that makes everyone feel good for exercising and not even realizing it.
Would love a walking or bike path
South Russell has never been a walkable village. SR has a great park and all residents should be able to safely access it by walking/biking. Safe pedestrian routes are not a priority to village council.
We are avid runners and bikers so the larger the shoulder on all streets the better for us and our kids as they grow. Currently, if there are sidewalks we use them and they are sufficient. I am in favor of more off road access but not slowing down current traffic patterns as it's slow enough already.
A sidewalk on Bell from where the currently terminate at the border with Chagrin out to SR park would be life changing for us! Even better if it went all the way to 306.
Please add paths along Bell St from 306 to downtown Chagrin Falls.
The ability to safely walk between Ridgewood and 306 would be so amazing. Currently anyone walking or biking has to be on the road and there is not much space to be safe. I often see people with strollers and children going to and from school on this road and I fear for them considering we live in a town with a significant amount of inexperienced drivers under the age of 18 and in an age where so many are on their phones.
We have been dying for sidewalks to safely walk to town most of all. Stroller friendly please! I would support this in any way I can. It would be a game changer for our community!
We strongly support increased connectivity for walking and biking. It will benefit- feelings of community and connectivity, physical health, safety for kids to go outside and connect with friends. Manorbrook & Alderwood need traffic slowing things like speed bumps.
The more accessible we are the better!!
So excited that we might get more paths for our kids!
My family has had to change our walking route in our own neighborhood after my husband and toddler (in a stroller) were almost hit by a car. Perhaps more police presence would help slow drivers down. Ideally a sidewalk or path would make the most sense, especially if it could extend to the village/ Gurney. It would be better to be proactive (before an accident happens) vs reactive. The fact of the matter is that this area is heavily populated with a ton of residents and businesses. It is not semi-rural, it is a suburb and the residents deserve to feel safe and have the ability to walk safely, including to amazing amenities like downtown Chagrin, the local elementary school, the farmers market, and businesses on East Washington.
Off road paths is a great idea. We would feel safer allowing our children to ride their bikes/walk more.

Please consider a sidewalk between the Chagrin Falls Hts/Country Estates neighborhood and the sidewalks of Chagrin Falls. Connecting the eastern most street/s (Fairview/Hazelwood) to the sidewalks of Chagrin Falls would create a safe pathway for a large number of residents to the high school, the intermediate school and the town. The curve on Bell at the south end of Fairview is dangerous as there is a curve and traffic travels at a higher than posted speed. Most residents of Fairview don't even use this end of the street when exiting onto Bell in their vehicles. At the north end, Walters has areas with little to no berm with a deep ravine on either side. Again, traffic is often traveling at a higher than posted speed. Sadly, most residents (including our household) do not allow their children to walk or ride bikes between our neighborhood and the town. My wife and I will not walk those roads after dark.

Connecting to downtown chagrin falls with a sidewalk

This infrastructure improvement should've happened when Bell Street was redone a few years ago.

The first priority for our household is an off-road multi-purpose path for bikes and walkers on Bell St between the west end of SR park and Gurney elementary. We bike that stretch of Bell daily with a preschooler in a bike seat and need to get off the road and away from distracted drivers ASAP. We believe in an active transportation life style but don't want that to come with a safety/risk tradeoff. We see so much pedestrian use of the road in that stretch, families walking dogs, kids on bikes, teenagers walking with fishing poles, parents jogging with strollers, but it is not yet safe. We've heard the growing need from our community to live healthy, active lifestyles and are excited that the council is listening to the communities needs through this survey.

Would love sidewalks to burntwood, SR park, and Gurney, would use SR park 10x more if we could walk there from Laurelbrook

Bike lane on Bell Street is great, but crossings are difficult and vehicles are often parked/stopped in bike lane

More sidewalks in the village would be great.

Better lighting and off road paths are a priority

Love these ideas so much! Huge thanks for making our village healthier and more sustainable.

A bike path on Bell to town and school would be great for our community but it needs to be separated, not just the side of the road because it is too dangerous with cars

Need crosswalks and signal on Bell at South Russell Park more than anywhere else given the number of city-sponsored activities there and little parking

Very difficult or impossible to walk /run on parts of Bell Street.

A narrow lane for bikes and walking along Bell Rd to village is just not enough. Some type of short barrier or a wide grass section next to road similar to the one in Mayfield on Rte 91 would be favored.

An off road path on Bell Road between 306 to chagrin falls village would be a great resource to our community. A cross walk to the municipal department for pedestrians to walk to south Russell farmers Market would be wonderful.

Better lighting and off road paths are a priority

I am DYING for safe walking options into chagrin from the preserve. not only do i feel unsafe walking my baby, but i hate passing by other people walking their babies/pets. it isnt safe

I walk the dog in the neighborhood multiple times daily and would walk to town and other businesses more often if there were pedestrian improvements. My spouse has a movement disorder that occasionally requires a wheelchair, but still walks with me and the dog on occasion - it would be more frequent if we felt safe walking on Bell and neighborhood streets. My child will sometimes walk home from school or walk to town, but due to lighting and speed of traffic, we are very cautious on time of day and weather for safety reasons. We would be very supportive of any pedestrian improvements and would favor a paved walkway - in the form of either a widened shoulder (with narrowed traffic lanes) or an off street sidewalk.

Love this initiative! I think any of these changes will make positive improvements to the village.

Safer pavements, safer side walks.. Walters sidewalks expanded

sidewalks will allow our kids to be independent and safe!

Sidewalks would be amazing to have! Would feel much safer walking daily with our dog.

The ability to safely walk between Ridgewood and 306 would be so amazing. Currently anyone walking or biking has to be on the road and there is not much space to be safe. I often see people with strollers and children going to and from school on this road and I fear for them considering we live in a town with a significant amount of inexperienced drivers under the age of 18 and in an age where so many are on their phones.

While running on Bell Rd, my husband was nearly hit by a teen driver. From our view, sidewalks would significantly enrich the quality of living for South Russell residents. Additional improvements like street lights in HOAs would be wonderful, especially in the winter months when it gets dark so early.

Bell Rd needs an off road path from 306 to downtown chagrin. Should have been done during the road project 10 years ago!

There are very few areas safe to bike within South Russell without riding in traffic. 306, Bell, and Washington have no room for bikes, and drivers do not follow the laws regarding bicycles on the road. I have been yelled at, cut off, and forced off the road by aggressive/angry drivers because I have to use the traffic lanes.

As a family, we currently don't bike around town or to town, because it's simply far too dangerous. It would be incredible to have biking/walking paths to use to get to the park, schools, downtown, and businesses on Washington! How wonderful to be able to bike to dinner and back or ride bikes to get ice cream. This would greatly improve our community and encourage people to get out from behind their screens to exercise and enjoy our beautiful community.

Overall, I'm a supporter of improving walk paths and bike lanes (and safety). I like anything that shifts priority from cars to walking/biking. Thank you for this survey and the effort to listen to people from the area. It's appreciated!

We need sidewalks on Bell going into town! There is no safe way to walk to town or to events at the high school/middle school from South Russell

I feel like the addition of a off the road pathway such as a sidewalk would enhance the area and encourage healthy and safe ways to get from south russell to downtown chagrin. It would give the people a sense of community and help people connect outdoors and perhaps decrease the traffic on the roads. My kids would be able to safely ride from neighborhood to neighborhood to visit with friends.

Sidewalks would be safer for walkers etc. cars go faster than speed limit.

A true bike lane that it wide enough for bikes would be the best!

Using the Hydrolines to create recreational biking and paths would be helpful and could link West Woods, to South Russell Park, to Froering Meadow, and possibly all the way to Hallbrook Hallows. A walking/biking path plotted to link for access between the HS/MS School Campus and Gurney could benefit so many-not just for school kids, but for all the community events that occur there!

I'm very supportive of an off road path all the way down Bell with a crossover to E washington St

Many years ago, there was a push to have a paved path along Bell Street by Councilwoman Voss to no avail. It is now 20 years beyond that time and very much overdue. There needs to be safer and easier means for the residents to access shopping and free exercise for children and adults alike.

The bike paths along Bell are not safe, as they are glorified berms that do not provide adequate room or protection for bikers. We don't need of road paths for bikes because bikes aren't supposed to be on sidewalks; rather, we need true bike lanes combined with walking paths for other modes of transportation (walk, young kids on scooters, etc).

Sidewalks to the village , west of 306



We would LOVE ride paths and walk paths. Our quality of life would go up IMMENSELY. We come from a quasi-urban background and getting walks is much harder here. It would make everyone's lives easier, better, and SAFER.

Would be great to be able to walk on sidewalks and connect w cf sidewalks to walk into town from 306 on bell. Also, something has to change at gurney during pickup when traffic on bell is stopped for the line of cars turning in. A passing lane or a turning lane.

<b>Paths - Unsupportive Comments (n=14)</b>
No South Russell household tax or levy dollars should be spent on any of these improvements. Only grant funding.
The bike lanes that were put in place several years ago were supposed to be sufficient. South Russell is rural, not city living.
Stop looking for ways to spend money. Income taxes were raised 25% (from 1% to 1.25%) and this only makes SRV less affordable and less competitive to surrounding communities where liberals aren't yet harming. Move to communities that have these features.
We oppose an off road path along Bell Street since Bell Street was already widened to accommodate walkers and cyclists.
The majority of people would not use the paths the costs would be extreme
This is not a priority for the community. My property taxes have gone up due to reassessments three times recently. I am not paying any more money.
South Russell needs to consecrate on being fiscal responsible. lower taxes and stop wasting money on projects.
No change necessary. Government resources and funds should be used for more important infrastructure and programming.
I thought when they paved Bell a few years ago, it was intentionally widened for a bike path. I think most long time residents moved here for the rural feel. Sidewalks cost money to install and maintain. More traffic signals means more signs and more light pollution.
If you want to bike or walk on the streets move to Chagrin Falls. If you want a more rural community live in South russell
The improvements would not benefit my family and we don't want to pay for it.
Bicyclists should be stopped by police for riding near the double yellow lines on Bell Rd and for not following traffic laws. Also, we voted for a road project levy in 2017 that went into effect for 2018 stating Bell Rd east of 306 would be widened the same as the westbound stretch. It is 2025 and this still has not been completed even though you have been collecting extra property taxes for it all these years.
Cost is to high leave out village as is was meant to be
I live on Bell St near Gurney School. After school traffic is too fast. I do not support a stop light

and crosswalk at S.R. Village park. When we widened Bell St I thought the lines were going to be painted to allow more space along one side for walking/biking. Now there isn't enough space on either side.

**Other Comments - Neighborhood Improvements, Other improvements, Other ideas (n=17)**

Street lighting needed

Strongly encourage (law?) helmets on bicycles. For some reason people think riding a path close to home won't cause a head injury if they fall.

We live on 306 and have two small children. I always feel it is dangerous to let them play out front or ride bikes in the driveway because car speed/traffic is so high.

Walk to school day was dangerous crossing 306 without a cross walk

Consider lowering the speed limit on 306 NB/SB to 25 mph in South Russel (similar to Chesterland). Car speed is what puts pedestrians and cyclists most at risk.

Thank you for putting this engagement survey together!

To make sure everyone is aware that there is a correct way to bike and walk on the street. Many adults are not aware. Therefore, not educating children. Safety is the utmost of importance. This is a huge concern.

Slow traffic down in congested pedestrian areas.

I would really(!) appreciate a stop sign at the intersection of Manorbrook and Reserve Trail as I have 4 young children, one of whom is autistic, that play in the front yard and I worry about them wandering into the street with cars speeding by!

I would love a stop sign on Manor Brook and reserve Trail. There is a lot of young kids that are near that intersection, including my twin three-year-olds and cars are coming off of a hill sometimes with a little speed with just okay visibility. There is a family of four right at that house now with young children. Crosswalk to South Russell Park would be really nice across Bell Walking out of Manor Brook. We frequently do that cross when we walk to the park. We bike and we walk a lot so we are huge on walking and biking infrastructure. Another wish would be to put a better trail that goes to Gurney that connects to Manor Brook so we can walk our kids through the woods to school with limit car traffic.

Sidewalks on Alderwood Trail from Manorbrook to Bell would be a huge win as there are often walkers and bikers on this road and the wavy road makes it almost impossible to see people until the last second. Plus there are lots and lots of kids in this neighborhood who would be safer if we had a sidewalk here AND there is plenty of space to put a sidewalk in on the side opposite all the houses which would be a low cost, high value add to the neighborhood especially since it would encourage people to go to south russell park.

We live in a subdivision on Bell Rd 1 mile east of 306. We are far enough out that we only walk within our neighborhood. While not opposed to these improvements, we just wouldn't use them because of distance.

Our household is currently using the roadways as they are and have not had any problems sharing the road with cars. The only problem I have is crossing in crosswalks in Chagrin Falls that do not yield to

pedestrians.

I think there are spots that would benefit from having posts put in the road separating the Pedestrian space and the road space

Our housing development is beautiful. Lots of wildlife and amazing scenery. We could use some off road trails where we can walk and bike though. My wife and I walk every day and it's done on the street. Cars are constantly driving fast, whipping around corners, and posing serious safety risks. Contractors park on the street, which causes cars to swerve around them, sometimes at dangerous points where there are blind spots to oncoming pedestrians/bikers. It's not relaxing to walk, as most of the time is spent with our heads looking around for cars coming from the front or rear. The kids in the area stick to the smaller streets because of the cars and the dangerous blind spots. Off road walks would be a welcomed addition and should be prioritized for a number of the housing developments in this area.

Parents need to supervise their children.

Would love to be able to ride a bike into downtown Chagrin Falls, but it's very difficult once you get to Walters Rd where the sidewalks begin and road is very narrow.