

MARK KELSEY  
Director

Tim - FYI  
for future work.

THE CITY OF  
**COLUMBUS**  
MICHAEL B. COLEMAN, MAYOR

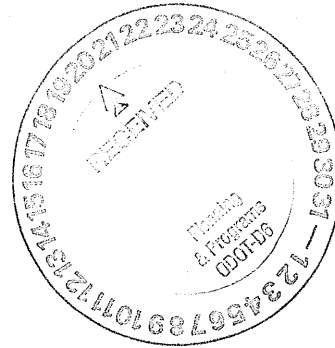
DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC SERVICE

June 14, 2012

Ms. Sherri Smith  
3583 LivMoor  
Columbus, OH 43227

RE: Courtright Road Bridge over I-70

Dear Ms. Smith:



On behalf of Department of Public Service Director Mark Kelsey, this serves as a follow-up to my conversation with you two weeks ago and the letter of April 13, 2012 from Kathleen Dussault of the Department of Public Service regarding your request for sidewalks on the Courtright Road between Deshler Avenue and Kimberly Parkway, including the bridge over I-70. That letter was sent to your attention following Ms. Dussault's March 12, 2012 telephone conversation with you. In addition, this also serves as a response to your conversations with City Council staff and your May 30, 2012 fax to Director Kelsey regarding this matter.

As Ms. Dussault correctly stated in her April 13, 2012 letter to you, the Courtright Road bridge over I-70 is owned by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), and ODOT currently has no plans to add sidewalks, fencing or make other improvements to, or rebuild, the bridge. As ODOT currently has no plans to add sidewalks to the bridge, the Department of Public Service currently has no plans to add sidewalks on Courtright Road between Deshler Avenue and Refugee Road, including the bridge over I-70. The Department will consider applying for Transportation Enhancement funds from Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission for sidewalks on the bridge and along Courtright Road once ODOT establishes a plan and timeline to improve the bridge. Within the City's Operations SAFEWALKS program, the priority for sidewalks on Courtright Road between Deshler Avenue and Refugee Road is low to medium.

The Department of Public Service is working with neighborhoods across the city to fill gaps in the City's sidewalk system along arterial and collector streets. Each year, the Department of Public Service evaluates sidewalk priorities, construction feasibility, and weighs these and other factors against the available funding for sidewalk construction. There are many other neighborhoods in Columbus asking for sidewalks along their streets. Given the size of our challenge to complete the sidewalks system along just the arterial and collector streets, there are locations with higher priority than Courtright Road.

As Ms. Dussault stated in her April 13, 2012 letter to you, the City considers the following factors when prioritizing where to build sidewalks:

- Arterial streets
- Locations adjacent to schools, recreation centers, parks and senior citizen housing
- Motor vehicle volumes and speeds
- Pedestrian and bicycle volumes
- COTA bus stops



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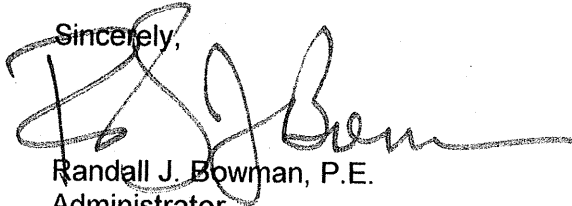
Since 2000, the city of Columbus has invested more than \$28 million in the construction of more than 100 miles of sidewalks. This year, the Department plans to invest an additional \$6 million in 7.3 miles of sidewalk and other pedestrian safety projects.

The City regularly coordinates with ODOT, MORPC and the other municipalities in Central Ohio to improve sidewalk connectivity. In the case of Courtright Road, ODOT would be the critical link with their bridge located between Deshler Avenue and Refugee Road. We estimate a sidewalk project from Deshler Avenue to Refugee Road, including the bridge widening, to cost several millions of dollars.

I encourage you to work through the Berwyn East Civic Association on advocating for sidewalks. We will keep you informed if the status of your inquiry changes.

Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at 614-645-2464.

Sincerely,



Randall J. Bowman, P.E.  
Administrator  
Division of Mobility Options

cc: The Honorable Eileen Y. Paley, City Councilmember  
Rory O. McGuinness, Special Assistant to the Mayor, Mayor's Office  
Ashley Senn, Community Affairs Coordinator, Mayor's Office  
Mark Kelsey, Director, Department of Public Service  
Jennifer L. Gallagher, P.E., Deputy Director, Department of Public Service  
Nancy Sully, Legislative Aide, City Council  
Thom Slack, ODOT, District 6  
Nick Gill, MORPC