

## Comments from the Public

The City of Olathe is making an extensive effort to engage local residents to learn about the concerns and ideas for improving 127<sup>th</sup> Street from Mur-Len to Pflumm. During the first stages of the concept study, comments were solicited in three ways:

- open house public meetings on March 8 and April 5
- comment forms distributed to meeting attendees
- feedback sent via the project website, [www.improve127th.com](http://www.improve127th.com)

The following pages contain comments received from the public as follows:

A,B,C.... A sample of comments received from the website and comment forms

(x #) ...Number of people who marked a "tick" to reinforce each comment at the April 5 open house

**Text in Red** ... Additional comments received at the April 5 open house

The City of Olathe and the project team appreciate the people who have attended meetings, visited the website, and shared comments. Please continue to participate in this important study!

Information regarding future public meetings will be posted to the website.

# ACCESS

- A. You need to allow full access to Forest Hills (127<sup>th</sup> & Constance). It is nearly impossible to get out in the AM and PM. (x 3)
- B. It is nearly impossible to turn onto 127<sup>th</sup> Street at Edinburgh and Raintree without a traffic signal. (x 2)
- C. Please build a two-way-left turn lane from Mur-Len to Black Bob, no medians! (x 7)
- D. Add entrance to the Junior High School off Black Bob (x 3)
- E. Right now 127<sup>th</sup> is so congested you cannot turn left onto 127<sup>th</sup> from the north side of the street if it is after 7:30 a.m. on a weekday. (x 9)
- F. Since opening the new overpass, it's difficult to get onto 127<sup>th</sup> Street from the north side entrances of Blackfoot. With the placement of the stoplight for the Pioneer Trail school, it's virtually impossible to turn left onto 127<sup>th</sup> street. (x 9)

No light at Edinburgh & Raintree. (x 6)

Need a light at Villas of Forest Creek. (x 3)

Add a light for access at Arapaho. (x 3)

Hallet only has one exit. If I can't turn left it will not be win-win. (x 3)

Have main entrance of high school for buses only, enlarge other two entrances for cars. (x 3)

High school students can't turn onto 127<sup>th</sup> so they turn around in our subdivision.

Traffic backs up at Pflumm and you can't see it when you come over the hill.

If there is a light at Arapaho, what will the city do about pool kids crossing in the summer time?

Consider the amount of traffic through neighborhoods when determining median breaks.

Presently in the afternoon, students leaving Olathe East will turn east on 127<sup>th</sup> and then north on Hagan, rather than attempt a west-turn out of the school's main entrance. This results in students speeding through the Villas of Forest Creek.

Overland Park is proactive, Olathe is reactive.

# BIKE LANES

- A. Safer for bikers. (x 1)
- B. Takes up space/requires more right-of-way. (x 19)
- C. Need to design the bike lanes to extend all the way to the intersection. (x 3)
- D. I am absolutely against bike lanes. (x 34)
- E. Bike lanes are extremely important and must be included in the project. Safety is going to be important to bikers too. (x 2)
- F. From an economic development standpoint, I think bike lanes are very important.
- G. Please keep bike lanes as part of this project. (x 2)
- H. Bike lanes are critical to the future of this corridor. There are few through streets in Olathe that accommodate bikers safety, and this would be a great, safe route. (x 1)
- I. Thank you for making bike lanes part of this project. (x 1)
- J. Keep the bike lanes like 143<sup>rd</sup> & Dennis. (x 2)
- K. Traffic is getting heavier and bikers, as well as motorists, could travel safer with bike lanes along 127<sup>th</sup> Street. (x 2)
- L. No bike lanes, but possibly widen the sidewalk. (x 3)

There is not enough room for bike lanes.

Please explain the economic development standpoint for bike lanes.

Already have bike trails, no need for bike lanes. (x 2)

Should consider views of Olathe residents before non-resident bikers. (x 3)

Bike lanes will invite novice riders to ride on the road where it isn't safe.

I would not allow my children to use the bike lanes. (x 7)

Why need a bike lane between Black Bob and Pflumm when an asphalt all-weather trail already exists?

Safer for kids going to school to ride on sidewalks rather than bike lanes.

Bike lanes are not as great for citizens as things like not losing homes and backyards.

Why do the bike lanes need to be so wide?

After living in Olathe for 16 years I have yet to see a kid ride their bike to school.

# INCREASED SPEED

- A. Having four lanes only lets people drive faster. (x 8)
- B. 35 mph is the maximum for this street. (x 21)
- C. Making 127<sup>th</sup> a four or five-lane road is a waste. Traffic is not heavy enough and people will just drive faster. (x 7)
- D. Even if you post 30 mph, people will still drive 40 or 45 mph. (x 6)
- E. There is obviously a problem with the speed of traffic between Pflumm and Black Bob as we have two speed stations currently on this stretch to try to slow down the traffic. (x 4)

Speeding is a major concern, there should be more police present.

I don't agree with any of these statements.

Mur-Len and Black Bob should have a speed station, close to Pioneer Trail.

No retail along this stretch, no need for increased speed.

# LANDSCAPING

- A. Provides visual enhancement (x 4)
- B. Improves property values (x 10)
- C. Takes up space/requires more right-of-way (x 12)
- D. I would like to see examples that show screening that might include fencing and landscaping (x 18)
- E. Please save newly planted trees on south side between Black Bob and Constance (x 3)
- F. Put landscaping between the houses and the road. (x 2)
- G. Who cares about landscaping?
- H. I am proud of my community, and feel that tasteful landscaping can be aesthetically pleasing, but I would ask for balance between desire to provide landscaping with the desires of nearby residents to maintain control of as much of their property as possible. (x 3)

127<sup>th</sup> & Hallet, Bradford Creek – Keep the berm and trees for safety and noise protection. (x 3)

Do not plant in median, plant near the houses.

Please use small amount of landscaping.

Landscaping is very important for aesthetics and noise.

Put up an 8-ft wall, not fence.

Who will maintain the landscaping?

How will you replace my two 30-year-old trees?

You are taking big trees, replace them with the same size. Please berm instead of privacy fences.

# MEDIANS

- A. Not necessary. (x 9)
- B. 24-feet is too wide, takes up space/requires more right-of-way. (x 14)
- C. Use continuous left-turn lane. (x 9)
- D. Keep medians narrow with no landscaping. (x 6)
- E. I would prefer that there is no center median. Two lanes in each direction with a center turn lane is more than sufficient. (x 10)
- F. You should build narrow medians and put the landscaping on the outside of the roadway. (x 5)
- G. Why do we need a 24-ft. median along the entire length of the improvement? (x 7)
- H. I absolutely do not support a center median. (x 10)

Section between Greenwood and Gallery is too narrow for a median.

Median only where homeowners are not affected. (x 2)

This project should only be one lane in each direction with center turn lane.

Want landscaping in the medians to reduce noise.

Why not remove median and only do two lanes in each direction to reduce impacts to property owners?

Road should expand where medians are needed and contract where medians are not needed.

Don't put landscaping in the medians.

# NOISE

- A. Increased traffic is going to mean more noise in my back yard. (x 31)
- B. You should build a noise barrier along the project. (x 19)
- C. I would like a noise abatement wall instead of landscaping. (x 13)
- D. I would like to see, along with most of the others affected, some kind of noise barrier be put up as compensation for loss of value of the property due to the roadway being closer to our houses. (x 15)
- E. I know that this will be an improvement for the traffic going down 127th street. But my house backs up to 127th and already the noise has increased. (x 25)
- F. I would like to see some kind of uniform and continuous barrier or fence and some trees to help with noise and privacy for those homes that back up to 127th Street. (x 26)
- G. What kind of noise buffers will be used? (x 11)
- H. This improvement will lead to more noise and I work at night and have to sleep during the day. (x 2)
- I. Landscaping is only important if you use it to decrease noise. (x 3)

**Mature trees cannot be replaced. (x 3)**

**Restrict truck traffic. (x 3)**

**Save the berm at 127th & Hallet. (x 2)**

**More reinforcement for loud car systems.**

**I don't want to look out my window and see a wall. (x 3)**

**Install an 8-foot wall. (x 3)**

**We will lose trees, please replace them and create a berm. (x 4)**

# PHASING

- A. You should complete the section from Black Bob to Pflumm first due to the safety issues already present in this section. (x 6)
- B. Why did you open the 127th Street overpass before this project was done and ready to carry the traffic? (x 8)
- C. My son goes to Pioneer Junior High and I would suggest if you do have to close 127th during construction, do it during the Summer when school is out. (x 2)
- D. I find it odd that the City of Olathe would improve the stretch of 127th between Black Bob and Mur-Len before they make improvements between Pflumm and Black Bob. (x 6)
- E. Is there any way to begin the improvement at Pflumm and move towards Black Bob first?
- F. As someone who commutes to work via 127th each day (to Overland Park), I'm excited to see these improvements get underway.
- G. Constance is the only entry/exit to the Forest Hills subdivision, just east of Black Bob. How will that traffic be handled during construction?

**Stay with the plan. (x 3)**

**How did you decide to do Mur-Len to Black Bob first? (x 2)**

# PROPERTY IMPACTS

- A. Be flexible when buying property, and include landscaping such as trees and aesthetic items. (x 5)
- B. Have any studies been done as to how this widening will effect property values along the 127th Street corridor? (x 19)
- C. Would like to know if the new road will cut into my yard? I plan to build a fence this spring right onto my property line and am wondering if I should proceed.
- D. If additional right-of-way is needed for the number of lanes between Mur Len and Sycamore, purchase Home Owners Association land for the additional land. (x 5)
- E. If you come in and take part of my property, the part that is left will no longer appreciate at the rate it had been before. (x 11)
- F. Instead of taking residential property to make more lanes, including a bicycle lane, why not take public property such as the park across the street)? (x 5)
- G. How will the value of my home be determined? (x 11)
- H. I have spent thousands of dollars and hours landscaping my backyard - I will lose all the landscaping along my back fence and a good portion of my back yard if you institute the more grandiose proposal. Not to mention the reduction in the value of my property. (x 2)

Several homeowners in Phase 1 could potentially lose 1/3 of their backyards. This is unacceptable.

Do you need just part of my front yard or do you have to take my whole property? If you just take part, do I get reimbursed for the loss of value for my entire property?

Property at 12642 Ballentine in Overland Park backs up to 127th and is listed at \$200,000 less than comparable home because it is a "drive-by" location.

Will I get reimbursed for all of the taxes I've paid on the land you take?

The road should bend to cause the least amount of impact to homes.

I don't want my house or backyard taken away.

I have a pool, deck, dog run, and retaining wall that will be taken if you make the road 120-feet, near 127th & Edinburgh.

# SAFETY

- A. Speed limit should be no more than 35 mph. (x 19)
- B. Pedestrians (school students, young Frontier Pool users). (x 2)
- C. Seeing other traffic at Rene.
- D. Bike riders, including school children, would be safer traveling with bike lanes along 127th Street. (x 1)
- E. I don't think that widening the streets in front of a junior high and the high school is a very smart idea, primarily for safety reasons. (x 5)
- F. Bike lanes that extend all the way to the intersection will greatly increase safety. (x 1)

Safety of residents and animals in their backyards along 127th Street. (x 2)

Crosswalk at the Pioneer Trail/Pool crossing. (x 4)

Will there be a sidewalk along 127th during construction?

Keep speed at 35 mph due to two accidents that already happened next to my fence.

Orange "snow fence" is not sufficient protection during construction. Chainlink fence should be used during construction.

Bike lanes all the way to the intersection will not increase safety. (x 6)

How will traffic be monitored and routed through residential areas during construction?

# TRAFFIC SIGNALS

- A. Improves left-turn opportunities. (x 5)
- B. Provides pedestrian crossing safety. (x 1)
- C. Controls speed through the corridor. (x 3)
- D. I would like to see a traffic signal at Brougham & Arapaho. (x 3)
- E. Please put a traffic signal at Arapaho. (x 7)
- F. Consider traffic signals at Raintree, maybe at Edinburgh as well. (x 1)
- G. You should put stop lights at every four-way intersection. (x 2)
- H. Put a traffic signal at 127th & Greenwood (x 5)

**Do not add left-turn lanes. Control traffic light.**

**Should be a traffic signal outside Olathe East HS.**

**If there are four lanes there doesn't need to be traffic signals.**

**Put traffic signals up at multiple intersections to avoid backups at Arapaho & Blackfoot.**

**Need traffic control going in and out of Pioneer Trail, suggest traffic signals.**

# TRAILS

- A. Does the Indian Creek trail have separate paths for bikes and pedestrians? Why can't they share the 10-ft. sidewalk and eliminate the bike path on the north side of the street? (x 6)
- B. Don't we already have enough trails that can be used? (x 12)

**Bike paths should be the lowest priority behind the road and medians.**

**Are the bikers just going to do laps? What is the point in having a bike lane such a short distance?**

**We don't need a 10-ft. sidewalk.**

**As a homeowner whose house backs up to 127th, I do not see a reason why bike lanes are needed. I should not lose land to a small special interest group (x 12)**

**I think we can use existing trails. (x 7)**

**More trails the merrier!**

**Bikes and pedestrians should not be on the same trail.**

# OTHER

Use the same lights as on the overpass.

What is being done about flood control with all the increased concrete? (x 3)

Have you thought about putting a retaining wall rather than moving all the utilities?

Concerned about increased traffic as it related to traffic accidents.

I think some people don't see the big picture.

I see the big picture, but there are ways to minimize impacts. (x 2)

Use illuminated street signs.

As a pool owner, if you take our fences down for construction, who is responsible for accidents caused by improper fencing?

During construction, fences need to be kept in place for the safety of our children and pets.

A long time coming and long overdue!

Why didn't long-range planning plan better and not allow homes so close to the road? Some of these homes are less than 10 years old.

Want road to stay within 100-ft. easement.

Please bury the utility lines.

Would like to repurchase 5-ft easement in front of Bradcreek Creek subdivision?

This project is being referred to as an "improvement" it should just be an "expansion." The scale of the project needs to be limited to avoid 127th becoming what we the residents DO NOT WANT – a super highway in our backyards.

Do not put gas meter on the inside of my fence.

We are concerned about the unscientific way the data is being collected – opens itself up to bias!

Who will pay for this project and changes? Will taxes be raised?

Concerned about the way the City will handle additional litter.

What is the Black Bob Commons entrance going to do to 127th Street?

Buyout needs to be for appraised value, not market value. 13902 W 126th Terrace. If you are going to take my property – need you to move quickly. We're moving out of state soon!

What is the purpose? Why even make the changes?

Could only be negative – no study needed!

As homeowners, can we petition this to stop it from happening? (x 2)

People don't want this change.

People's investment in their homes and yards are more important than a the convenience of a few bicyclists on a sunny day.

What has happened to our casual, tree-lined community?