

# **Westerville City Council Strategic Goals 2018-2019**

*The following goals are in priority order according to a consensus of Council from their May 15, 2018 public meeting emanating from an open meeting and discussion on March 26, 2018. City Staff has developed implementation action plans for Council's consideration of policy, appropriations, or similar formal actions in open meeting.*

## **1. WESTERVILLE SAFE**

Our safety forces have done an outstanding job creating proactive programs for community policing and fire safety. Council desires input for proposed development of a holistic program called Westerville Safe to add to and augment these programs. We should also consider for example various community partners such as the Schools and others to incorporate "second responders" and the community to leverage safety.

## **2. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

The City has developed several initiatives for environmental sustainability. The City has achieved top tier recycling programs diverting about 40% of waste to date. The City is afforded utilities that have assisted in programs such as BusinessWise to further sustainability efforts. MORPC has also provided a program that Council has adopted by non-binding Resolution called Sustainable2050 to provide an excellent framework. Council desires furtherance of our initiatives in this area. We should consider for example enhanced programs that increase recycling, reduce utility use per capita, renewable options, and enhance tree canopy and green space.

## **3. MOBILITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

The City has funded a mobility plan that emanated from our Comprehensive Plan. Council desires that the plan include all facets of mobility (which may already be incorporated in the plan) to include roadway, bikeway, and pedestrian pathways anticipating future demands, parking, connectivity, safety and accessibility. Importantly, we should engage partners such as COTA and local businesses for "last mile," circulator, and shuttle needs, as well as anticipating the mobility forms of the future.

*Once the goals above have action plans presented to Council, City Staff may embark upon the following as second tier goals. However, the goals below may be incorporated in plans already in development and are not meant to divert energies away from those plans.*

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## 4. ATTAINABLE HOUSING STRATEGIES

The Comprehensive Plan has identified diverse housing to include attainable or affordable options. Westerville has good diversity in housing noted in the plan as compared to most central Ohio suburbs, but we recognize a gap. For example, families in Westerville note that their grown children may not be able to afford Westerville housing upon leaving their family home. In addition, older adults may not be able to age in place and may not have affordable downsizing options. Council desires that the new zoning code and other policy areas be explored to attempt to fill the gap for attainable housing. In addition, Council desires that Westerville continue to be lower in taxes and utilities in comparison to most central Ohio residents. This latter issue may include adopting, for example, low income provisions for affordability.

## 5. ADVANCE UPTOWN IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The City has adopted an Uptown Plan in 2014 and we have proceeded with capital plans to achieve. These plans include roadway enhancements, surface parking additions, opportunities for parking deck, alley/via development (in mobility plan as well), and more. Council desires that the Uptown area be increased in scope conceptually (not necessarily architecture review scope) to incent and invite better rear entries to State, to extend corridors such as W Main and E College, and to extend to opportunities that will develop south along State past Plum to Walnut and beyond.

***Council discussed other items on May 15, 2018. The goal to develop pro-diversity/anti-discrimination enhanced principles within our code was created as an action item. In addition, the WeConnect plan for residential access was mentioned, and that is included for consideration within the capital improvement planning process. Lastly, the goal to revise fiscal policy to provide property tax relief was not supported by the majority. However, the issue of affordability for taxes and utilities is included within the attainable housing goal.***