MEMO TO COUNCIL

December 1, 2014

Dear Council Members:

In our 2014 Council Retreat, Council and staff separated into topical committees focusing on various issues important to Council for the upcoming years. During that committee break-out, there was a walkability/sustainability committee, where Councilman Smith and several city staff discussed the “Bike and Pedestrian Steering Committee.”

One very important take-away point discussed in that committee break-out - and subsequently as a full group – was the need for the city to adopt an ordinance to form an additional Committee with the equivalent authority of the ARB, MPC, and Parks and Rec Board.

As you know, there is currently a Bike and Pedestrian Steering Committee finalizing some major efforts from the past 16 months. Their final report and recommendations to Council will be presented at the December 8, 2014 meeting.

One of their top priorities and recommendations is for Council to form a standing bike/ped committee.

As members of the Bike and Pedestrian Steering Committee we can assure you that the need for a standing Committee by ordinance is the best, if not necessary, action. The current advisory committee has accomplished a lot the past 16 months. They have started discussions that will only be able to come to fruition in future years.

**Forming a Committee by ordinance will allow Council to appoint the appropriate committee members and oversee any major decisions that occur**. Since Council has started to commit to long-term funding of bike/ped projects in the 2015 CIP fund, it is important that we have more “skin in the game” than simply forming an ongoing advisory committee.

Worthington’s long-term sustainability and partial economic health is dependent upon a comprehensive view of walking and bicycling as a mode of transportation and recreation. We have gratitude for the members of the current Bike and Pedestrian Steering Committee for addressing some very important issues.

**We urge Council to take their report to the next level by taking the following actions:**

1. form a Committee by ordinance or resolution
2. adopt the Bike and Pedestrian Steering Committee recommendations as a living document for the newly-formed standing committee,
3. request staff review and update design standards to latest best practices standards and design guides already adopted by many other municipalities and as recommended by steering committee

Respectfully,

Doug Smith & Rachael Dorothy

Council Members, Worthington