

## LIC-Thornwood Crossing PID 87642 Press Release

The City of Newark proposes to construct a new bridge crossing over Raccoon Creek as part of a new roadway that will directly connect Thornwood Drive to Thornwood Crossing in the City of Newark, Licking County, Ohio. The proposed project will bypass the existing Showman Arch Bridge, which presently carries Cherry Valley Road across Raccoon Creek. The new Thornwood Crossing extension will begin at a proposed roundabout intersecting Reddington Road, Thornwood Drive, and relocated River Road. Exiting the roundabout, the new road will run across Raccoon Creek and the T.J. Evans Trail, carried by a new, three-span steel girder bridge. The new road then will connect directly into existing Thornwood Crossing at its intersection with Cherry Valley Road. With the proposed project, existing Cherry Valley Road will be converted to a drive for property access and utility maintenance, from Thornwood Crossing to a point north of Reddington Road; the existing Showman Arch Bridge will remain in place. As part of the River Road relocation, the existing River Road/Thornwood Drive intersection will be closed, and a cul-de-sac constructed on the remnant segment of River Road to retain access for adjacent properties. The proposed project also will realign and widen a portion of Thornwood Drive south of the roundabout. Reddington Road will be resurfaced between the roundabout approach and the existing intersection with Cherry Valley Road. The existing Reddington Road/Cherry Valley Road intersection will be converted to a T-intersection, involving minor pavement widening and reconfiguration of the turn lanes. Construction is currently scheduled in 2023 and will last 18 months.

Temporary and permanent right-of-way will be required from several parcels with two (2) residential relocations. Some impacts to utilities are anticipated.

The project will require two roadway closures during construction. A temporary closure of Reddington Road will be necessary to connect it to the new roundabout; and a temporary closure of Thornwood Drive will also be necessary to connect it to the roundabout. These two closures will occur at different times and signed detours will be provided for each. While existing River Road is connected to the relocated River Road and new roundabout, only westbound through-traffic will be maintained on existing River Road from Thornwood Drive. All eastbound through-traffic on River Road, between Canyon Road and Thornwood Drive, will be detoured during this period. Access will be maintained to all properties during construction. All impacted residents, public safety and service agencies, schools, and public transit agencies will be notified in advance of the upcoming road closures and the period of one-way westbound through-traffic on River Road.

The project will impact the T.J. Evans Trail which is owned by the T.J. Evans Foundation and maintained by the Licking County Park District. The project will require permanent right-of-way from two parcels that are part of the T.J. Evans Trail. Approximately 0.38 acres of permanent right-of-way will be required from parcels 54-217074-00.000 & 54-217110-00.00 at the Reddington Road/Cherry Valley Road intersection. These areas were incorporated into a transportation use in 2004 by a City of Newark intersection project by agreement. The City now needs to formally acquire this right-of-way from the T.J. Evans Foundation. No new additional impacts will occur to these two T.J. Evans Trail parcels outside the limits of these right-of-way takes.

In addition, approximately 0.7 acres of additional permanent right-of-way will be required from parcel 019-041262-02.000 as a standard highway easement. This impact will be to provide the City of Newark access to build and maintain the new bridge over the Newark-to-Johnstown segment of the T.J. Evans Trail and Raccoon Creek, and to improve and maintain the existing ditch that parallels the south side of the Trail to convey roadway drainage.

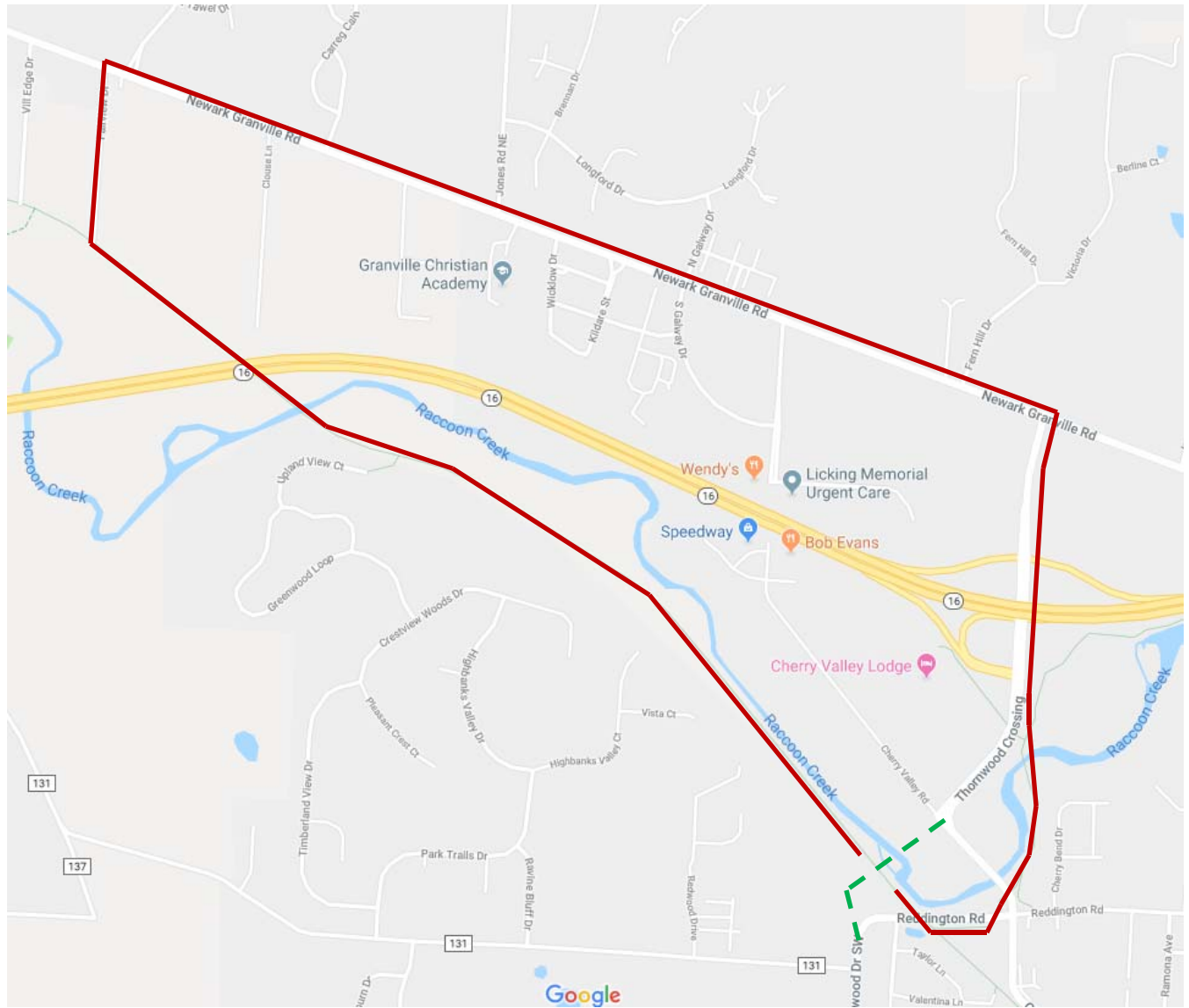
The project will also require that the Trail be closed several times during construction. Based on current design information, the closures are estimated as follows:

- Three-month closure at the beginning of construction for placement of the Thornwood Crossing roadway embankment and grading on the south side of the Trail;
- One-week closure for erection of the structural steel girders for the new bridge; and
- One-two week closure to pour the concrete deck.
- Two-month closure toward the end of construction for final grading and installation of permanent erosion control features adjacent to the south side of the Trail.

A potential detour has been identified that would provide trail connections during these closures. See attachments for proposed detour map. The proposed detour would use Fairview Avenue, Newark-Granville Road, and Thornwood Crossing to connect back to the Trail. A sidepath exists along Thornwood Crossing and the north side of Newark-Granville Road. Fairview Avenue is a narrow, dead-end street with a few houses located in Granville Township. There is no bike path/lane along Fairview Avenue, but the low traffic volume should provide a safe route. The City of Newark, Village of Granville, and Granville Township will consider the following options and mutually arrive at the best solutions for temporary and future operation of the trail system: 1) shared use pavement markings and/or signage on Fairview Avenue; 2) a crossing at the Fairview Avenue/Newark-Granville Road intersection, designated by pavement markings and/or signage; 3) a warning beacon at the Fairview Avenue/Newark-Granville Road intersection.

The City has coordinated the project's involvement with the T.J. Evans Trail with the T.J. Evans Foundation and the Licking County Park District and will implement measures to minimize the impacts to the Trail. Both entities have concurred that the project will not adversely affect the protected recreational activities, features, and attributes associated with the Trail.

Due to the necessary permanent acquisition of land associated with the T.J. Evans Trail and the proposed roadway closures, the City is seeking public input regarding the effects and the project in general. Questions and/or comments regarding this project may be directed to Brian Morehead, City Engineer, by mail to City of Newark, 40 West Main Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Newark, OH 43055, by phone (740) 670-7727, or by email [BMorehead@newarkohio.net](mailto:BMorehead@newarkohio.net). **Comments will be received through January 1, 2021.**



- - - Project Location
- Proposed Detour



LIC Thornwood Crossing PID 87642  
T.J. Evans Trail Proposed Detour