

TO: Village Council and Mayor Brown  
FROM: Health and Recreation Committee, Randy York - Chair  
RE: Developing Scope Of Work for CROWN Master Plan Study  
DATE: May 2, 2022

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The Health and Recreation Committee met on Monday May 2, 2022 at 6:30pm. Present at the meeting were Health and Recreation Committee members Randy York (Chair), Susan Brownknight (Vice-Chair), Leah Geldbaugh (Member) and Mayor Bill Brown. Also in attendance was council member Rob Bartlett and Village Engineer Chris Ertel and residents Matt Ayer, Linda Bartlett, and Greg McCotter.

The purpose of the committee meeting was to prepare guidelines to be used for the preparation for a scope of work to study the Mariemont involvement in the CROWN urban loop trail.

The committee agreed that the following would be the guiding principles and the key priorities for the Mariemont Crown Corridor Master Plan Study:

### **Mariemont Crown Corridor Master Plan Study**

The purpose of the Mariemont Crown Corridor Master Plan Study is to establish the level of participation and to determine the optimal integration of the CROWN 34-mile urban loop trail into the Village Of Mariemont. The study will determine the level of additional participation, if any in the CROWN trail and to offer a comprehensive analysis of alternatives of the CROWN integration in Mariemont from where the CROWN trail may enter to where it may exit the Village.

The Village Of Mariemont is currently not committed to any further expansion of the CROWN 34-mile urban loop trail in the Village; this study will determine if there is sufficient community support for expansion and to present route and design alternatives for the optimal benefit of the Village.

The primary responsibility of the study is to establish a process for community-wide engagement in every aspect of the study. Public participation and input is paramount. This will be accomplished by addressing the following priorities for the Village:

- 1 Public safety is of utmost concern to Village officials and the study will identify, detail and mitigate any threat to public safety that the trail expansion may cause.
- 2 The expansion and stimulation of our businesses is a key factor when considering development of any public asset in the Village. The study and design alternatives will maximize the potential positive impact of the CROWN trail on our business community.
- 3 The Village Of Mariemont believes in diversity and inclusion in all public projects. The Village will give priority consideration to organizations with satisfactory diversity and inclusion practices.
- 4 The study will give particular attention and consideration to those residents who have properties adjacent to any potential path alignment. Issues such as impact on privacy and potential assumed responsibility and liability on the trail will be addressed.
- 5 The Village of Mariemont is on the National Historic Register and no CROWN trail alternatives or design elements will compromise that standing.

The Health and Recreation Committee will define the scope and commission the study. They will review proposals and interview at least two firms. While commissioned and contracted by the Village, the study will be funded exclusively by private third-party sources. These sources will reimburse the Village for all expenses associated with the study.

The Health and Recreation Committee will take guidance from the selected firm on makeup, process and timetable for the study. The Health and Recreation Committee recommends that the members of the committee and at least two other residents be included and that a final proposal/recommendation be completed by January 2023.

The Health and Recreation Committee has updated an original scope of work document provided by Village Engineer Chris Ertle to include recommendations for the inclusion of the guiding principles and priorities listed above.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Randy York, Chair

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Susan Brownknight (Vice-Chair)

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Leah Geldbaugh (Member)

## Scope of Study

The Village of Mariemont (the Village) is seeking proposals from engineering consultants to perform a route study to establish the level of participation and to determine the optimal integration of the CROWN 34-mile urban loop trail into the Village Of Mariemont. The study will offer a comprehensive analysis of alternatives to the CROWN integration in Mariemont from where the CROWN trail may enter to where it may exit the Village.

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The Village is seeking both public perspectives and a professional engineering assessment of options. Proposals are due May 24, 2022.

The Scope of Work is summarized as follows:

- Solicit and obtain community input concerning the level of participation and to determine the optimal potential integration of the CROWN 34-mile urban loop trail into the Village Of Mariemont.
- Identify alternative path alignments and list the pros and cons for each route in a DRAFT report; append public comments to the DRAFT report.
- Provide projections on the potential economic impact on our area businesses to alternative path alignments.
- Identify, detail and present mitigation alternatives to any threat to public safety that the trail expansion may cause.
- Conduct and present impact studies to property owner adjacent to any path alignment.
- Present the DRAFT report to the Village Council for review and comment;

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- Solicit and obtain community input concerning the DRAFT report via a public meeting and written comments;
- Produce a FINAL report. Public comments will be appended to the FINAL report.

### Study Area

The study area will include any part of the CROWM 34-mile urban loop that may impact the Village of Mariemont and the Mariemont Municipal Corporation Lines.

### Factors to be Included

Factors addressed in the Study for the alternative routes must include safety, preliminary budget costs including Right-of-Way acquisition, roadway modifications, design and construction costs, impacts on private property owners, economic impacts, aesthetics, parking impacts, recreational benefits, other benefits such as walkway or drainage improvements, and historical preservation aspects. The Village is a National Historic Landmark. Other factors based on the Consultant's expertise should also be presented.

### Public Engagement

Public participation and community engagement must be a significant part of the study.

Maps and other presentation materials used in the public meeting or presentations to Village government must be provided in pdf format for posting on by the Village on its website. An email address or web portal to receive public comments must be established by the Consultant.

In addition to the Village's community-at-large, the consultant will seek input from key stakeholders who include property owners along potential alignments, the business community, the wellness community (e.g., health and recreational fitness organizations), Mariemont City School District, and Village government.

### Background

#### ODOT Project

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is proceeding with engineering to connect the Little Miami Scenic Trail with Mariemont. This trail segment will connect from Walton Creek to Mariemont Way at US 50, aka at the "new driveway" to Mariemont High School.

#### Cincinnati Riding or Walking Network (Crown)

The Crown is a vision for Cincinnati's first-ever urban trail loop – a 34-mile, multi-use paved trail. When complete, the Crown will form a network with the following trails in development: Wasson Way, Ohio River Trail East, Little Miami Scenic Trail, Ohio River Trail West, Mill Creek Greenway Trail, and Canal Bikeway. A connection from the LMST to the Village's Murray Path would connect LMST to Wasson Way as a link in completing the Crown.

#### Deliverables

Deliverables include maps of the study area, identified potential alignments, and other materials as presented at the public meetings and the Study website; documentation of public comments; comparison tables of pros and cons; and preliminary budget cost estimates for the identified options.

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The anticipated timeline is to begin approximately June 1, 2022. Public comments can be taken throughout the life of the study. The first public meeting (describing the Study and seeking community input regarding a multi-use path and its alignment options) should be scheduled as soon as practicable, but no later than July 8, 2022.

The Final Report is due November 15, 2022.

**Notes:**

The Village will arrange for the venue for the public meetings with A/V equipment (e.g., school auditorium, community meeting room).

Contact Chris Ertel, P.E. Village Engineer, for technical questions. Contact Mayor Bill Brown for contractual questions.