



CTM Minutes - Group: CTM Board Meeting

By Owen Waller, Secretary

Date: April 7, 2025, 7:00pm

Location: Hybrid Meeting – In-person at Clifton Recreation Center. Online using Google Meets

Board Members Present (14): In Person: Steve Goodin, Gerald Checco, Jan Checco, Mindi Rich, Tim Noonan, Owen Waller, Kevin Mohan, Brendan Pulte, Patrick Etter, Ben Pantoja, Justin Ogilby, Genet Singh, Barry Gee, Kevin Leahy

Absent (1): John Whedon

A quorum is present. Meeting called to order at 7:06.

(U) below will represent a unanimous vote.

Public attendance in person (24)

Louise Bettman, Malcolm Montgomery, Dale Hodges, David Logan, Inuk Zandvakili, Karen Noonan, Jeanne Strauss DeGroote, Tom Leksan, Peggy Moses, 4 firemen, Michael Moreland, Michelle Murphy, Peter Block, Brittany Havens, Tom Fruth, Mary Pat Lienhart, Tom Lienhart, Amanda Pavlick, Jasmine Xi, Stefan Nieschwitz, Vanessa Thomas

Public Attendance online (10)

Matthew Hulme, Maggie Thurston, Char Lyon, Brad Bower, Pia and Seth Lynch, Ruth Ann Bumiller, Kevin Marsh, David Tornheim, Chris Pantoja

Welcome to our meeting – Contact the CTM email at contactctm@cliftoncommunity.org

Motion to Approve Agenda – Ben Pantoja

The meeting agenda was sent out prior to the meeting. Ben Pantoja motioned to approve the April meeting agenda, Jan Checco seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Motion to Approve March Minutes and Amend February Minutes – Owen Waller

The minutes were sent out to board members prior to the meeting. Owen motioned to approve the minutes, Ben seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Owen moved to amend something previously adopted: the February minutes. This motion means to attach all discussed motions to the February minutes and include an explanation why Motion 5 was not voted on (the board meeting ran out of time). The motion was seconded by Jan and approved unanimously

Fire Report – Mario Jackson Cincinnati Fire Dept. (CFD)

Mario is a lieutenant of CFD and manages a local station on Little Oak. Specific audience questions, if any, will have to be postponed until the regular officer arrives.

Mario warned anyone driving a vehicle to be wary of high or unknown depth water. Issues can occur when driving through 2+ inches of water. Additionally, around this time of year recreational fire safety is encouraged. Keep flammable objects away from open flames, and when using coal be sure to properly dispose of them in metal bins after they have cooled off.

In the last 3 months there have been many fires in vacant structures, so keep an eye out for any structures that could be at a higher risk of catching and staying on fire.

Clifton Branch Library update - Jeanne Strauss de Groote

The Clifton Branch library is celebrating its 10 year anniversary in its new location on Brookline. The building is also turning 130 years old this year. The

library is hosting a large community celebration on May 31st to commemorate these milestones and kick off its summer reading program. There will be music, activities, and an exhibit of historic photographs of the Clifton Branch library. The event is from 2pm-5pm, and the historic presentation is from 4pm-5pm.

Gerald made a motion for CTM to financially support part of the event so long as a private sponsor is found. Tim seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Jeanne continued that she was disappointed to also share alarming news about budget cuts in the Ohio House of Representatives proposed budget. The House plans to completely eliminate the Ohio Public Library Fund, the way libraries in Ohio have been funded for the past four decades. The CHPL (Cincinnati and Hamilton county Public Library) receives 50% of its funding from the Ohio Public Library fund, roughly \$14 million per year. Over the next two years, libraries in Ohio would lose \$100 million in funding. Residents are urged to contact their state representatives to let them know you would like to see a strong future for the public library.

Jan made a motion that CTM work with Jeanne to send a letter of support for our libraries. Patrick seconded the motion. It was unanimously passed.

A full list of events and programming provided by the Clifton Branch public library can be found here: <https://chpl.org/locations/cl/>

Clifton Recreation Center update - Brittany Havens

The CRC is hosting a Friday night pottery night as a one-off introduction. Participants can use a pottery wheel and create a piece to be picked up later.

The CRC is hosting its third buy-nothing-swap on April 26th from 10am-1pm. Clifton residents are encouraged to bring items they do not need and take items they like.

The 6-week youth chess program hosted by the CRC recently concluded with a bracket tournament. There were 16 chess players and lots of parents

supporting their kids. Brittany thanked Gerald and Jan for donating to help support the chess program.

After concluding the chess tournament, the CRC is looking outward for what activities members of the community would like to see be hosted at CRC. This could be activities for children or adults, any programs that Cliftonites believe would be interesting and engaging.

Bike Lane Update & Motion 1 - Justin Ogilby

Justin explained the history of the bike lane project. Back in 2023 Clifton submitted a pedestrian safety request for the intersection of Ludlow and Clifton Ave. This request for better pedestrian conditions was granted, and the City of Cincinnati DOTE proposed extending the existing bike lane to prevent dangerous passing northbound through the intersection.

The special meeting on March 17th drew a large crowd and about half of the board, ~40 total attendees. Residents favored the bike lane over a parking lane and favored a 2-way bike lane over a 1-way bike lane solution. The result of this will be reduced peak speeds (40% decrease in cars going 10+ mph over) and increased connectivity in Clifton's cycling facilities.

Additionally, a future connection from low-stress bike routes north of Ludlow to the future Crown cycling trail will be important for Clifton's part in the Cincinnati cycling network. Justin and Ben explained the details of a proposal done by Dave Meyer, a traffic engineer from Clifton who volunteers on the transportation committee.

Justin proposed a motion to let the city know to go forward with construction of the 2-way bike lane with the standard material. Ben seconded the motion. Discussion ensued covering the ridership and usefulness of the bike lane. Various board members also discussed the necessity to connect low-stress bike routes, lack of trust in DOTE, and excitement for possible reduction in speeds. The motion passed 11-3

Yes: Gerald, Jan, Mindi, Tim, Owen, Brendan, Patrick, Ben, Justin, Barry, Kevin L.

No: Genet, Kevin M., Steve.

The full motion is attached at the end of the minutes.

Motion 2: Beneficiary for Golf Outing and Friend of Clifton Designation - Gerald Checco, substituting for John Whedon

The golf outing committee recommended the beneficiary for the golf outing proceeds to be Cincinnati State Minority Outreach program and the Friend of Clifton Award be given to the Clifton Historical Society. Gerald proposed the motion, Owen seconded it, and it was unanimously passed.

The full motion wording can be found attached to the minutes.

Tom Fruth thanked the board on behalf of Jeff Gowdy, the director of Clifton Historical Society, and shared that they would be hosting historical tours of Spring Grove during the month of May.

NSP (Neighborhood Support Program) Update - Barry Gee

A mailchimp communication was sent out to the Clifton email list calling for submissions for projects to be funded with money from the Neighborhood Support Program. The total money awarded to each neighborhood this year is \$10,000. The deadline for project submissions is April 20th, and CTM will vote on projects in the May board meeting.

The board discussed timing of funding to assist in purchasing materials for the Memorial Day Parade and Picnic.

Motion 3: Clifton Chronicle Publishing Timing - Jan Checco

Michael Moreland spoke about the printed issue of the Chronicle arriving two weeks later than the digital issue is emailed out. In hopes to encourage reading the physical issue, and to better line up with the seasons in which the Chronicle is intended, Michael would like to send out the digital email when the printed issues are delivered.

He explained that early email delivery was a leftover artifact of long delivery times during the covid-19 pandemic and that the chronicle layout was intended to be enjoyed through its physical medium.

Before the motion was made, Jan made a friendly amendment that the digital copy be provided to advertisers early, and in the event that the paper is delayed, the digital chronicle will be sent out on the intended date of the physical delivery.

Steve made the motion to accept Michael's proposal with Jan's friendly amendment, Jan seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to accept the motion. The full motion language will be included as an attachment to the minutes.

Clifton Plan Update - Gerald Checco

The Clifton Community plan held a neighborhood engagement session on March 22nd. Roughly 30 people attended, and the next engagement session will be held during the Memorial Day picnic at Mt Storm. Members of the planning department helping with the plan will be present to answer questions and engage residents.

Motion 4 & 5: Clifton Boundaries

Motions 4 and 5 were created to settle a discrepancy in the boundaries defined in the Clifton Plan and the CTM bylaws. Ben began by highlighting the differences between the city's boundaries for Clifton and CTM's bylaw boundaries and the history of the boundaries. Details are included in a presentation attached to the minutes. 3 audience members signed up to speak on motions 4 and 5.

Tom Lienhart requested to speak and spoke to motion 5. He explained concerns that if the Clifton Plan is held up by a boundaries discussion it could lead to development unsupported by the community. Though he is not against including bylaw boundaries, he wants to prioritize getting the Clifton Plan finished so protections can be in-place before development plans are made and approved.

David Logan shared that he has lived on Bishop for 36 years and would like the street to be protected by CTM. He explained he thought sending the letter of motion 4 was a good idea, but would like the Clifton plan's boundaries to add the bylaws' boundaries. He highlighted he and his wife had actively helped protect Burnet woods from being altered, and that protecting it was incredibly important.

After discussion of logistics of boundaries differences among the board, Ben proposed motion 4, a letter to be sent to city planning asking clarifying questions about how boundaries are used. Gerald seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

During discussion of motion 5, Malcolm Montgomery explained that he had been heavily involved in the boundaries processes and explained that the historic boundaries files were not on the CTM drive. Ben explained that he could not find them in the drive, but they were found again. Malcolm continued that he believed that CTM had a duty as defined in their bylaws to serve all residents of Clifton, including residents not defined in the City's boundaries.

Some board members advocated for the Clifton Plan to include an overlap of both City boundaries and bylaws boundaries to ensure everyone is included. Other board members expressed concerns that people in overlap areas would hold too much power being represented by two community councils.

Malcolm shared a note from the president at the time of the boundary change. The reason the Clifton boundaries expanded was to reach new members who are interested in being neighbors in Clifton and improve CTMs credibility when protecting development in and around Burnet Woods. The note cited the character of Bishop St being congruent with the rest of Clifton. Malcolm continued in the ways Cliftonites had participated in Burnet woods and surrounding areas.

A board member mentioned that the City of Cincinnati was doing the plan per its boundaries, and that the city planner is unable to execute a plan not following the city's boundaries. Eman from the audience stated that he did not agree with motion 5, and that he had picked his house specifically so that it was within the Clifton school district.

Ben proposed a counter-motion to motion 5. Brendan motioned to table motion 5, Steve seconded the motion. It was tabled 13-1. Motions 4, 5, and counter motion 5 are included at the end of the minutes as attachments.
Yes: Gerald, Jan, Mindi, Owen, Brendan, Patrick, Ben, Justin, Barry, Kevin L., Genet, Kevin M., Steve.
No: Tim

Adjournment - Next CTM Board Meeting 5/5.

Motion to adjourn called by Ben, seconded by Patrick, and was unanimously approved (U).

Respectfully submitted,
Owen Waller, Secretary

Attachments:

Motion 1 2-way Bike Lane

2025.04.07 Bike Lane Summary

Motion 2 Golf Outing Beneficiary & Friend of Clifton Designation

Motion 3 Clifton Chronicle Publishing Timing

Motion 4 Letter to City Planning

CTM vs City Boundaries.jpg

Clifton Boundaries CTM vs City Presentation

Motion 5 Define Clifton Plan Boundaries

Motion 5 Countermotion

Motion 1 Bike Lane

- This moves that DOTE proceed with their standard bike lane separator materials to construct a 2-way bike lane from Ludlow to Bryant. Although this approval is unconditional, we also request that CTM and DOTE work collaboratively during the design and implementation process to:
 - Maximize safety of southbound cyclists at the Ludlow, Hosea, Senator intersections
 - Maximize safety of all pedestrians and cyclists at the Ludlow/Clifton intersection
 - Identify any opportunities to incorporate elements that improve lane appearance
 - Collect traffic and usage data to inform future decisions

●

Ludlow to Bryant Bike Lane Extension

2025.04.07



Current state

- **February, 2023:** DOTE awards funding to CTM to address safety at intersection of Clifton and Ludlow.
- **June, 2024:** CTM approved a motion to address safety by proceeding with a bike lane extension from Ludlow to Bryant
- **March 17, 2025:** at a Special Meeting of the Board, CTM reviewed options for this extension. Audience favored a 2-way bike line from Ludlow to Bryant and a 1-way bike lane on Telford.
- **April 7th, 2025:** need to set direction moving forward

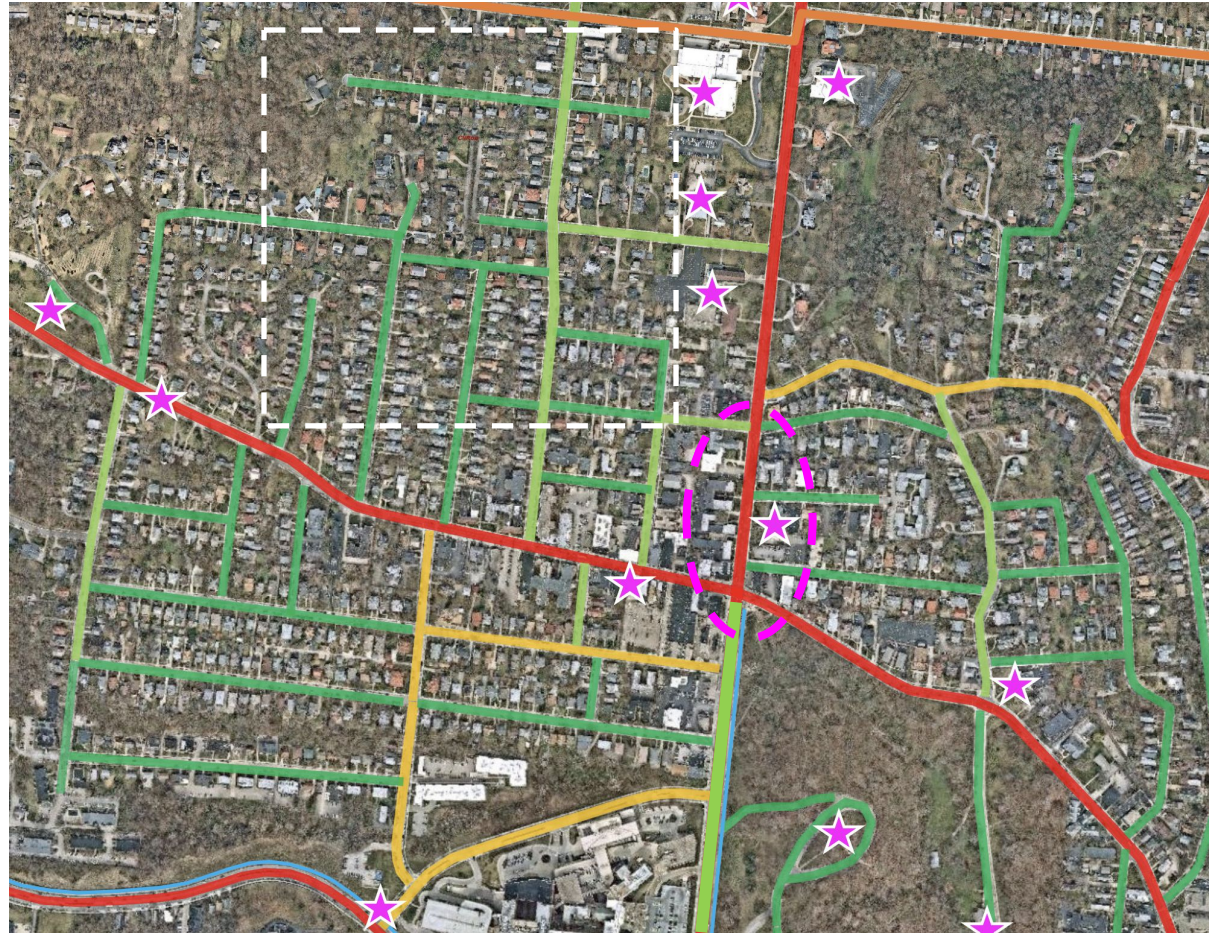
Why a bike lane?

- Reduce from northbound lanes from 2 to 1
 - DOTE's top recommendation for traffic calming and safety
 - Currently, cars use the 2 lanes to race past each other right at the most dangerous intersection in Clifton
- DOTE's John S. Brazina found speed reduction with Clifton bike lane
 - Study in 2021 showed 28% reduction in speeding overall and 43% reduction in speeding above 40 mph

Why *this* bike lane? Connectivity.

“**Bridge the gap**” to provide residents in the northwest quadrant of Clifton with:

- A safe, low-stress route to the institutions on Clifton
 - Bryant connects west;
 - Lorraine connects east
- A better connection into the existing Clifton Ave bike lane



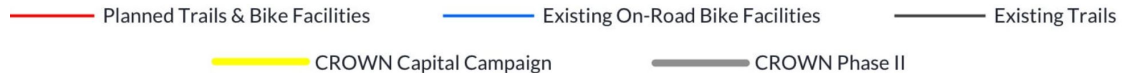
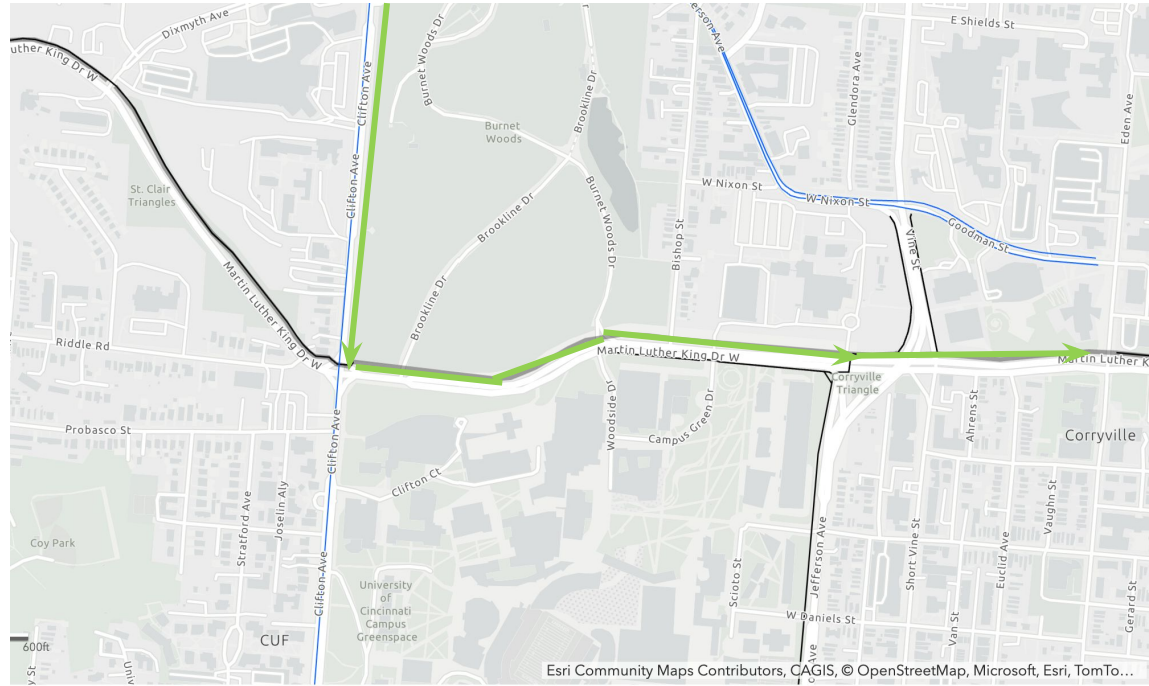
Why *this* bike lane?

Connectivity.

A safe protected route for
Clifton residents all the way
to Wasson Way

Clifton Ave -> MLK path ->
Uptown connector -> Wasson
Way

More connections = More use



The following designs are not final

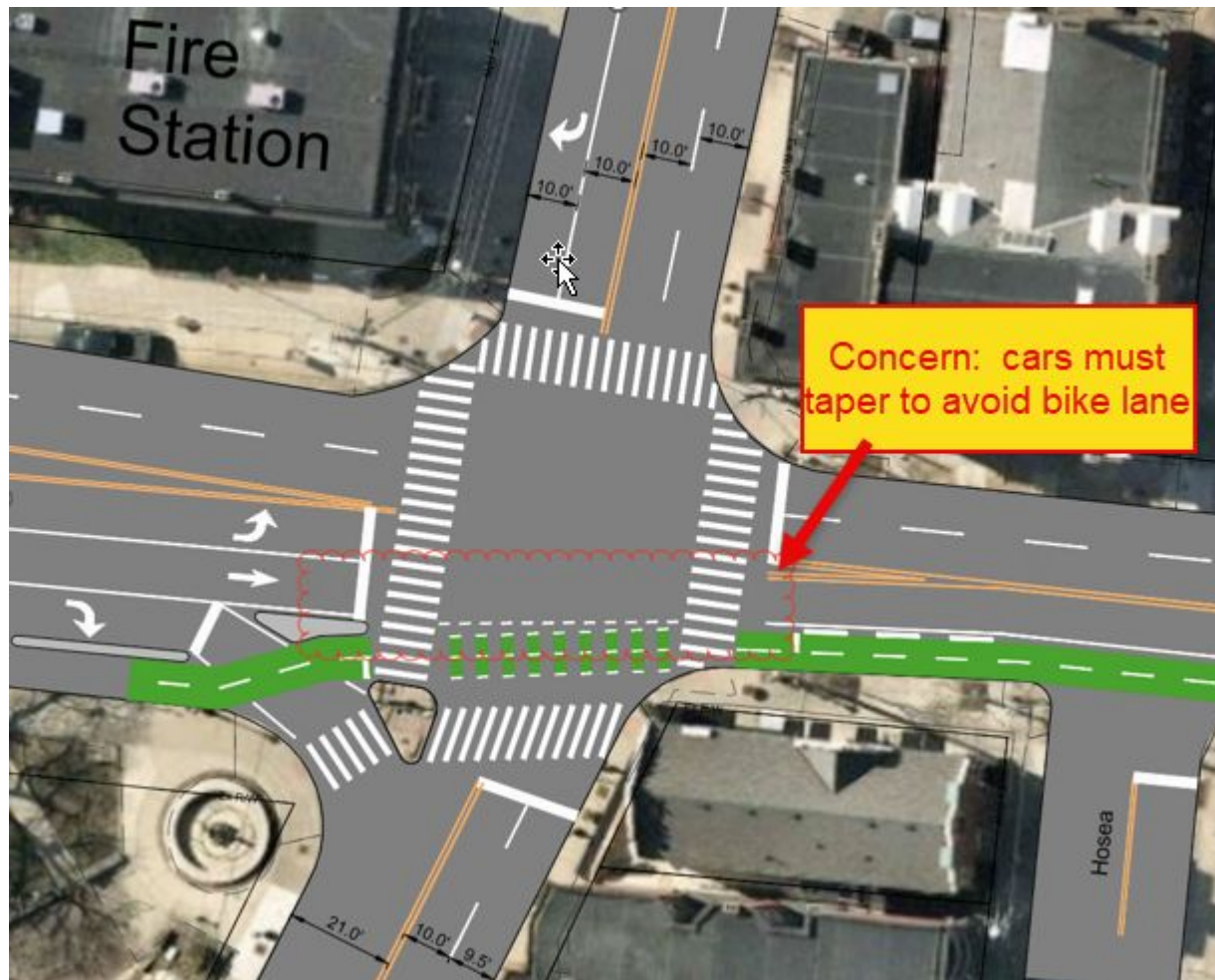
- Developed by a traffic engineer, but not by DOTE
- DOTE will create final designs

1-way Bike Lane

- Southbound cyclists reach Telford. From that point, the 1-way Telford Connector leads to center of Business District.
- After the Special Meeting, DOTE said this might not be feasible. Removing from recommendation



Two Way

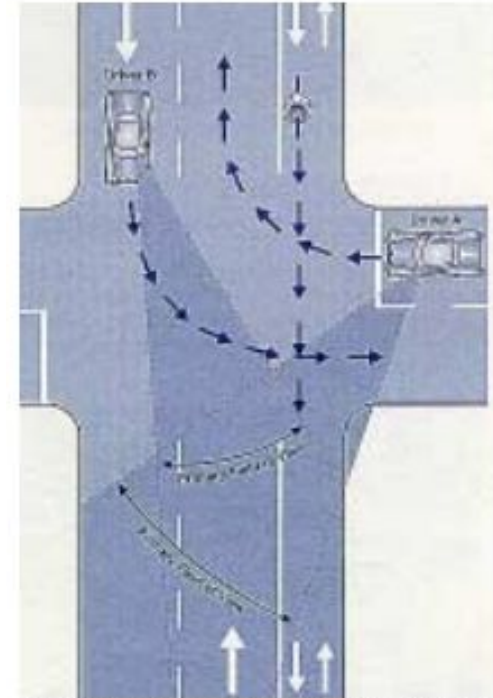


Two-Way



Safety Concerns With 2-way Bike Lanes

- Ohio Department of Transportation:
 - "Two-way separated bike lanes or a side path on one side of a street introduces a counter flow movement for bicyclists, which can be challenging – but not impossible – to accommodate. . . If used, care should be given to the design of intersections, driveways, and other conflict points, as people walking and driving may not anticipate bicyclists traveling in the opposite direction."



In both cases above, a wrong-way bicyclist is not in the driver's main field of vision.

Motion for 4/7/25

- This moves that DOTE proceed with their standard bike lane separator materials to construct a 2-way bike lane from Ludlow to Bryant. Although this approval is unconditional, we also request that CTM and DOTE work collaboratively during the design and implementation process to:
 - Maximize safety of southbound cyclists at the Ludlow, Hosea, Senator intersections
 - Maximize safety of all pedestrians and cyclists at the Ludlow/Clifton intersection
 - Identify any opportunities to incorporate elements that improve lane appearance
 - Collect traffic and usage data to inform future decisions

Motion 2 Golf Outing

This moves that the beneficiary of the 2025 Golf Outing will be Cincinnati State Minority Outreach Program and that the designated Friend of Clifton will be the Clifton Historical Society.

Motion 3 Clifton Chronicle

This moves that, going forward, we distribute the print version of The Clifton Chronicle before we distribute the electronic copy.

Advertisers will receive digital copy ahead of delivery. If the print issue is delayed, the digital copy will still be sent out on the regular timeline.

Motion 4 Letter to City Planning

This moves that Ben Pantoja send the following letter:

To: City Solicitor and Director of Planning

Date: April 7, 2025

Subject: Neighborhood Boundaries

As Clifton Town Meeting develops a new Clifton Plan, questions have been raised about the boundaries of Clifton. The boundaries defined in CTM Bylaws differ from the boundaries defined by the city. Please help us understand how the city treats these boundaries, especially with regard to notifying CTM regarding developments, liquor licenses, and building and zoning issues. Also, are how are the boundaries defined by the city used in making decisions?

BACKGROUND

On 5/19/2021, City Council reviewed a motion to alter the neighborhood boundaries of Clifton to exclude Bishop Street south of Jefferson Avenue. The area in question is solely in Corryville per the City's boundaries, but falls within the boundaries defined by the bylaws of both Corryville and Clifton. The motion was opposed by over 30 community councils who did not want to allow a precedent of the City modifying the boundaries defined by community councils.

According to multiple speakers at the meeting, including several members of City Council, the City relies on community council boundaries to determine when to notify the community council. Based on this understanding, several speakers said that, in the case of Bishop Street, the City would automatically notify both Clifton and Corryville of zoning and other issues on Bishop because the boundaries defined by the Clifton and Corryville bylaws overlap in this area.

Were these speakers correct about notifications relying on the boundaries defined by community councils? We need to verify this to understand how to present the two sets of boundaries in the Clifton Plan. The reason for questioning which boundaries are used for notifications is that Section 111 states that, "The area of representation of a community council shall be shown on a map approved by the city council and filed with the clerk. City council may approve a map showing an area as being represented by more than one community council." Is the "map approved by city council" the City's map of Clifton or a map that matches the boundaries defined by the community council's bylaws?

Another source of confusion is Motion 202102060 (adopted 6/9/2021) :

The recent neighborhood boundaries discussion involving Clifton, CUF and Corryville underscores the necessity to review how the City notified neighborhoods for issues happening in adjacent communities. I move that the City Administration, in collaboration with Invest in Neighborhoods and Community Councils leadership, come up with a set of new recommendations to codify how the City engages citizens on issues of development that affect their neighborhoods.

Were there any changes in code as a result of this motion?

- Ben Pantoja, President of Clifton Town Meeting



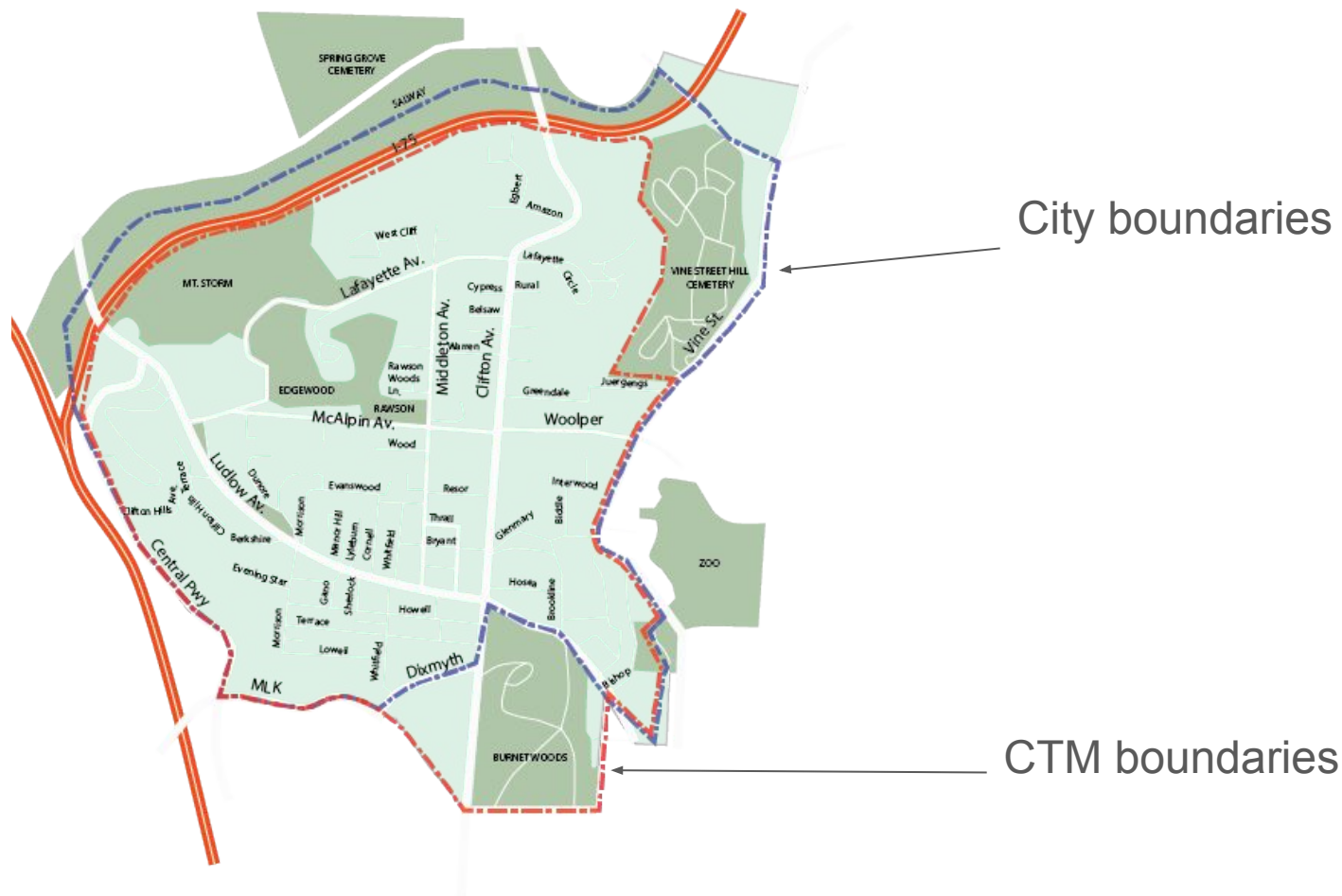
Clifton Boundaries CTM versus City

Intent today

1. Explain when CTM and City boundaries diverged
2. Explain how the divergent boundaries are used
3. List questions
4. Brainstorm how Clifton Plan might address boundaries
5. Brainstorm what changes, if any, to make in CTM boundaries

When the Boundaries Diverged

- City boundaries and CTM boundaries agreed starting in 1961
- City still uses the 1961 boundaries
- In late 70's, CTM bylaws dropped the Vine Street cemetery
- In 1983, CTM added Bishop south of Jefferson and Burnet Woods
 - These are now claimed by more than one community



When the Boundaries Diverged

- On 5/19/2021, there was a motion in City Council to have the planning commission eliminate the Clifton/Corryville overlap by removing Bishop from the Clifton community map.
- Motion was opposed by 32 Community Councils because they wanted to retain control of the community council maps even if they overlap.
- Motion failed.
- Link to Council Meeting recording:
<https://archive.org/details/10210519-coun>

Impact

- According to multiple speakers at the 5/19 meeting, the City uses the boundaries defined in community council bylaws for community council notifications. The city notifies the community council for all developments, zoning and building issues, and liquor licenses that are within 400 feet of these boundaries.
- According to the speakers, if multiple communities claim the same area, then the City notifies multiple communities
 - Burnet Woods and Bishop south of Ludlow are solely Corryville in the City's boundaries
 - Both Clifton and Corryville claim these areas
 - Both communities are informed of Zoning issues

Questions for the City

- Were the speakers correct? Does the City notify community councils based on the claims of the community council boundaries instead of the city boundaries? This is not clear from the language in City Code
- Motion for letter to ask for clarity

Motion 5 on Clifton Plan

Motion:

1. The Clifton Plan is a legal document between the City of Cincinnati and the neighborhood known as Clifton
2. Clifton's boundaries were established by the City of Cincinnati in 1961.
3. In the 1980's, CTM voted to annex part of the neighborhood defined as Corryville by the City of Cincinnati.
4. Corryville has never accepted this annexation.
5. The City of Cincinnati has never changed CAGIS to reflect this annexation by Clifton
6. The Clifton plan should use the boundaries of Clifton as defined by the City of Cincinnati
7. A separate document or chapter should be written listing Clifton's "areas of concerns".

Motion 5 Counter Motion

Assuming CTM learns that CTM Boundaries are only used for notifications, this moves that:

- The Boundaries section at the start of the Clifton Plan document acknowledges the existence of 2 sets of boundaries: that of the City and that of the CTM Bylaws, that there are discrepancies, that the CTM Bylaws boundaries are only used for notifications, and that the CTM Bylaws include areas that have had a longer history of being designated as solely being part of Corryville in both the City's boundaries and the Corryville Community Council boundaries and that the City boundaries still place these areas exclusively in Corryville.
- The Boundaries section includes a diagram showing both sets of boundaries.
- The Boundaries section should then specify that, because this is a City Plan and because City boundaries have fewer areas of competing claims than Community Council boundaries, it makes sense for City Neighborhood plans to focus on City boundaries. Therefore, the rest of the Clifton Plan will focus on the area within the City's boundaries for Clifton.