



Established January 4, 1932

CITY OF PEPPER PIKE POLICE DEPARTMENT

28000 Shaker Blvd. Pepper Pike, Ohio 44124

Chief Joe Mariola

Mayor Bain,

In response to your question about safety concerns of a walking path in the median of Gates Mills Blvd. I have the following observations.

1. The installation of the walking path would move walkers from the roadway to the path thus creating a safer environment for the walker. Many of my concerns on Gates Mills Blvd. revolve around the walker/biker volume. Bicyclist currently use the right designated bike lane to travel on Gates Mills and walkers use the left lane to avoid the bicyclist. This condition is hazardous when a motorist is overtaking and passing a bicyclist or walker. This can be avoided by the use of a walking path.
2. The walking path can be observed from the roadway thus officers would be able to "patrol" the walking path during their normal duties.
3. The walking path would move walkers further away from homes thus creating a greater buffer between residences and the walker. This would reduce the visibility that the homeowner has of the walker and would also require a greater distance for any sound to travel.
4. At no time have we observed littering as a problem on our current walking paths so I would not expect an increase with the extension.

I have spoken to the police chiefs in Orange Village and Beachwood concerning the walking paths/sidewalks in their communities. Both chiefs feel that the walking paths/sidewalks make their communities safer because it removes the pedestrians from the roadway and places them on the path. Neither chief was able to provide me with statistical data.

Respectfully,

Joe Mariola
Chief of Police