



Crawford Drive  
Public Information Meeting  
September 23, 2021  
Bath City Hall Auditorium  
Meeting Minutes

Public Members Present: 12

Agenda:

- Introduction by Lee Leiner, P.E. – Public Works Director
- Project presentation by Jan Wiegman, P.E. – Wright-Pierce Engineers
- Discussion and questions

Lee Leiner introduced the project and the people involved. The proposed project is to construct a new sidewalk on Crawford Drive. The work would also include storm drain separation, sewer main repair or replacement, and road surface repair. The current fiscal year budget included funds for design but there is no funding for construction at this time.

Jan Wiegman used a PowerPoint slideshow to illustrate the project elements. They are:

- Sidewalk on the north side of Crawford Drive from Oak Grove Avenue to Newton Road
- Crosswalk from the north side to the south side of Crawford Drive at Newton Road
- Sidewalk on the south side of Crawford Drive from Newton Road, crossing Matthews Avenue, continuing to Bernard Street.
- Crosswalk across Bernard Street to the Varnum Field parking lot
- Crosswalk across the Varnum Field parking lot to the field area
- Separation of one storm drain on the corner of Newton and Crawford. The drain is currently connected to the sanitary sewer and will be altered to connect to existing storm drains further east on Crawford. Approximately 300 feet of new storm drain will be required.
- Repair and/or replacement of multiple portions of existing sewer on Crawford Drive.

Jan explained that the portion along the north side of Crawford is meant to connect to the recently constructed sidewalk on Oak Grove Avenue. That project included a new crosswalk across Oak Grove along the north side of Crawford. The sight distance to northbound vehicles on Oak Grove is longer with a crosswalk here, instead of along the south side of Crawford.

The sidewalk would go on the south side of Crawford from Newton to Bernard because:

- There are fewer utility poles to be moved.
- There are fewer large trees to avoid.
- The crossing of Bernard would be much safer for pedestrians than crossing Denny Road at the east end of Crawford.
- The existing pavement of Crawford meanders within the city right-of-way, but there is more room on the south side on which to create the new sidewalk.

The proposed crosswalk across Crawford at Newton is a good location with long sight distance for vehicles in both directions on Crawford, there is no hill to obscure it.

There was lengthy discussion on how this project fit within the City budget process, how it would be measured against other City capital needs, how residents can participate in the budget process, and whether City staff has investigated sources of funding other than taxes.

Questions from the attendees included:

Q. What type of curb is proposed?

A. Slipform concrete (same as that recently placed on Oak Grove Avenue).

Q. What are the changes to the configurations of the intersections of Crawford with Matthews and Bernard?

A. The intersection at Matthews will be more “T-shaped” than “Y-shaped” and the opening of Matthews will be narrowed to make a shorter, safer crossing for pedestrians. The corner of Crawford at Bernard will be broader to provide the proper area for an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant ramp.

Q. Was there any discussion of adding speed tables or other traffic calming enhancements?

A. The design effort did not include an analysis of speed or accident data for Crawford Drive. Therefore, it is unknown if traffic calming measures are warranted. The City Planner is developing a traffic calming policy, but it will be some time before it is ready to be considered or adopted by the Bath City Council. Raised crosswalks or other elements could be added. The narrowed intersections at Bernard and Matthews, as well as the sidewalk itself, are safety enhancements for pedestrians.

Q. Can the northwest corner of Crawford and Denny be modified to enhance safety and possible slow traffic?

A. Right-of-way in this area is tight. However, the City will ask the engineers to look at this corner to see if some measures can be added to the project.

There were also several comments from attendees:

- The road is more important than the sidewalk.
- The sidewalk is a great idea and the neighborhood really needs it.
- The sidewalk should be placed on the south side of Crawford all the way from Oak Grove to Bernard.
- Residents should have an opportunity to review the budget for the project and eliminate elements they do not want to fund. Withhold judgment on the merits of the project pending the cost.
- The project is a good idea overall.

Haley Blanco of the City Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee was in attendance. The committee requested that the engineering for this project be funded as a priority of the FY2022 City Budget. She explained that the project was a priority for the committee members because they want to establish good, safe walking routes in Bath, connect to the soon-to-be-completed Oak Grove Avenue sidewalk project, and to address a clear need for pedestrians moving between Bath Middle School and Varnum Field and into the Lambert Park neighborhood.

City Councilor Terry Nordmann commented that the attendees should know that the Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee had made this project a priority. And that attendees should speak with their city councilors to express their level of support for this, or any, City project.