

**CITY OF READING, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION
MARCH 04, 2025 – 7:30 PM**

For the full detail of this evening's Council Meeting, please visit www.watchreadingohio.com.

CALL TO ORDER

President Mr. Mattscheck called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Mr. Mattscheck led those in attendance in a prayer and then the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Mr. Powell, Mr. Bronner, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Boehner, Mrs. Kroeger, Mr. Thamann & Mrs. Eadicicco.

OTHER CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Mayor Bo Bemmes, Safety Service Director Patrick Ross, Treasurer Brenda Owens, Auditor Sabrina Smith & Clerk of Council Carla Albrinck.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve February 4, 2025 (Regular) Council Minutes Meeting made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mrs. Eadicicco carried by voice vote.

AUDIENCE ASKING PARTICIPATION:

Bob Ashbrock (221 Walnut) – Would like to see agenda items (such as the ODOT presentation being given tonight) to be publicized earlier so that it gives the public a longer amount of time to prepare their thoughts and questions.

Mr. Powell Response - Right now this is just a concept plan.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

GUEST SPEAKERS:

(1) Bree Hetzel & Scott Knebel (ODOT Representatives)

– Discussing Reading Road Target Speed Program

TARGET SPEED PILOT PROJECT READING ROAD (US ROUTE 42)



Jeremy Thompson – ODOT
Bree Hetzel – ODOT District 8
Scott Knebel – Crawford, Murphy & Tilly



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BACKGROUND

- Target speed is a speed chosen during the design process intended to guide planning
 - It is the speed that drivers are encouraged to operate at
- Studies show higher travel speeds result in greater impact at the time of a crash

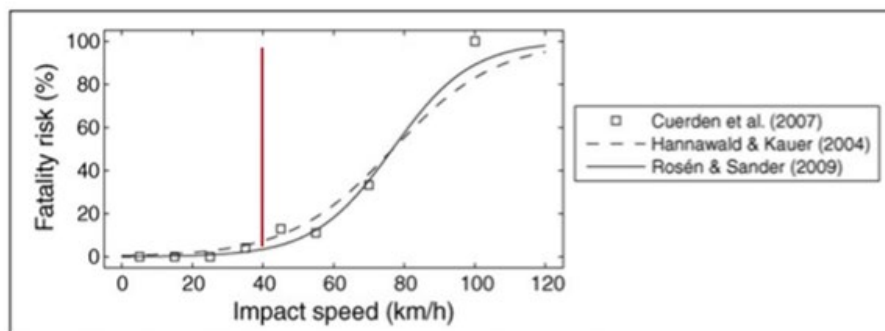


Figure 1. The fatality rate of pedestrians in crashes with passenger cars as function of the collision speed (from Rosén et al., 2011).



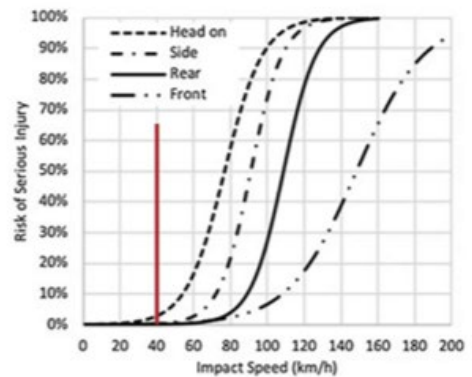
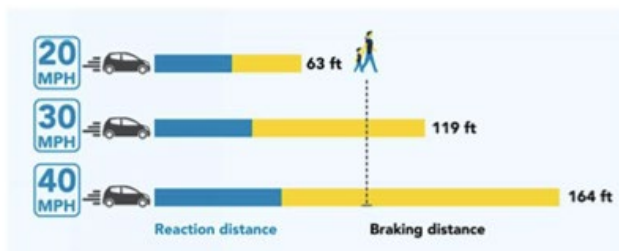
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BACKGROUND CONT.

- Speed-related severe crashes are overrepresented on urban arterials
 - Arterials make up 13% of the network in urban areas, but are where 47% of severe crashes occur

Higher speeds reduce a driver's field of vision

Traveling at higher speeds narrows your field of vision as you drive, making it more difficult to see and react to people in the roadway.



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PROJECT PURPOSE

- The Safe System Approach (SSA) is a recognized best practice for reducing crashes and fatalities
- This project addresses the SSA's safe speeds and safe roads elements within a study area



Figure 2. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Safety System

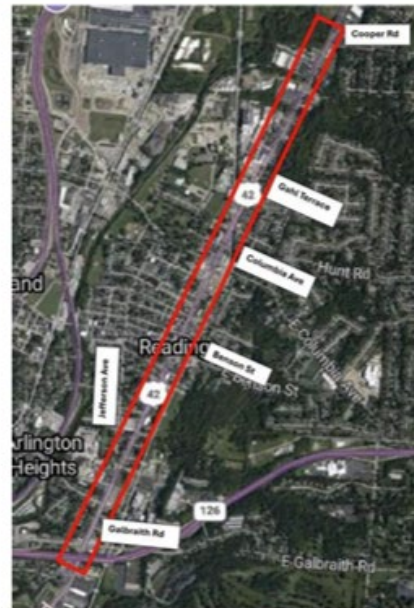
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STUDY AREA

1.84-mile segment of Reading Road (US 42)

- north of Galbraith Road
- Cooper Road

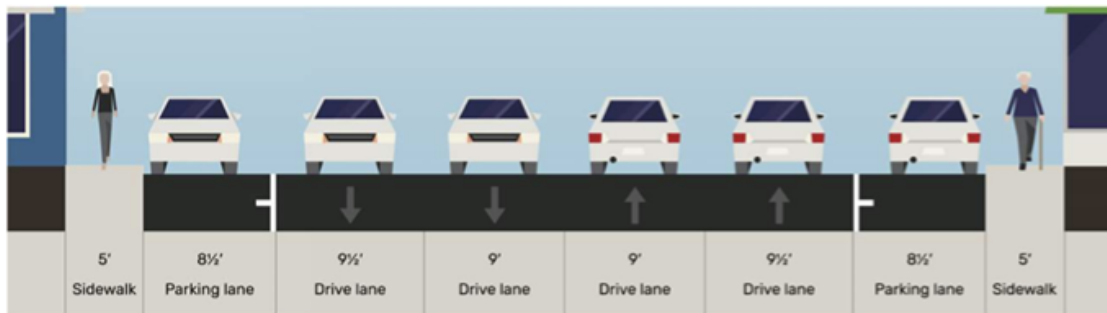


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EXISTING CONDITIONS



- 11,500 vpd (vehicles per day) south of Benson St; 16,500 vpd north of Columbia Ave
- Posted speed limit: 25 mph
- 12 signalized intersections (Columbia Ave critical intersection)

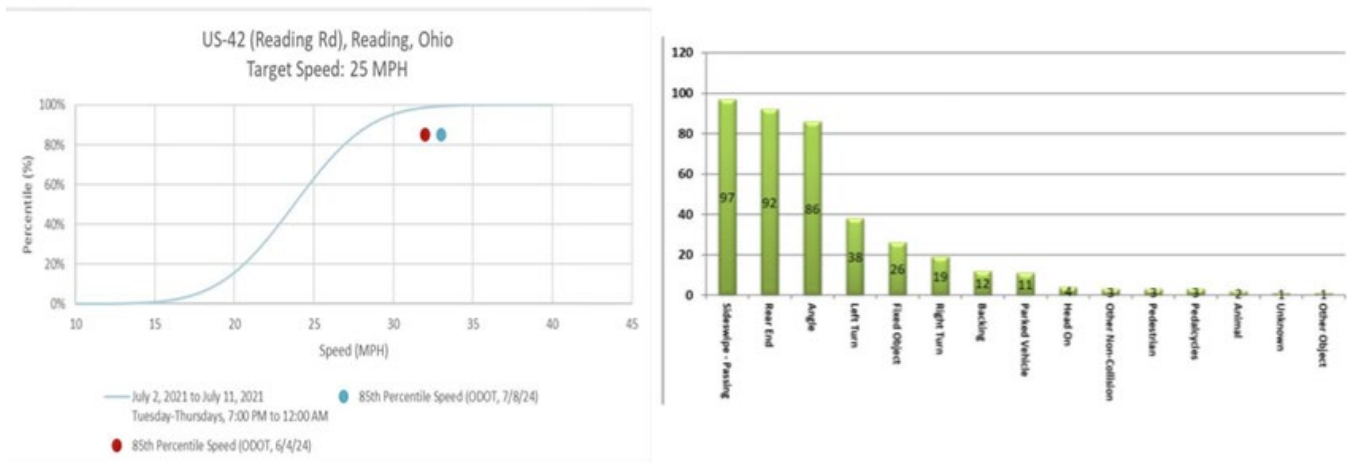
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SPEED PROFILE AND CRASH TYPE FREQUENCY



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NO BUILD ALTERNATIVE

- Two Northbound (NB) and Southbound (SB) through travel lanes; , aux turn lanes depending on location
- Existing signal phasing applied at all intersections

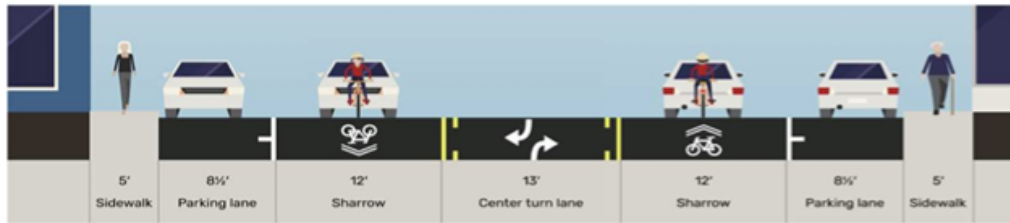


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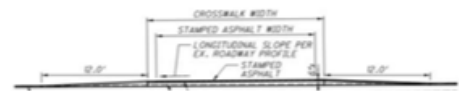


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BUILD ALTERNATIVE



- A 3-lane section with one NB lane and one SB lane with aux turn lane.
- Sharrows (shared-use arrows) which matches Cincinnati bike plan
- On-street parking with curb extensions (9)
- RRFB treatments (2)
- Raised crosswalk and raised medians (5 each)
- Revised lane configuration (L-T-R) at Columbia Ave (LOS D)



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CONCEPT PLAN (GALBRAITH TO CLARK)



Project cost (design, right-of-way, construction) of \$3.7 MM funded by ODOT Safety Program as part of a Target Speed pilot program

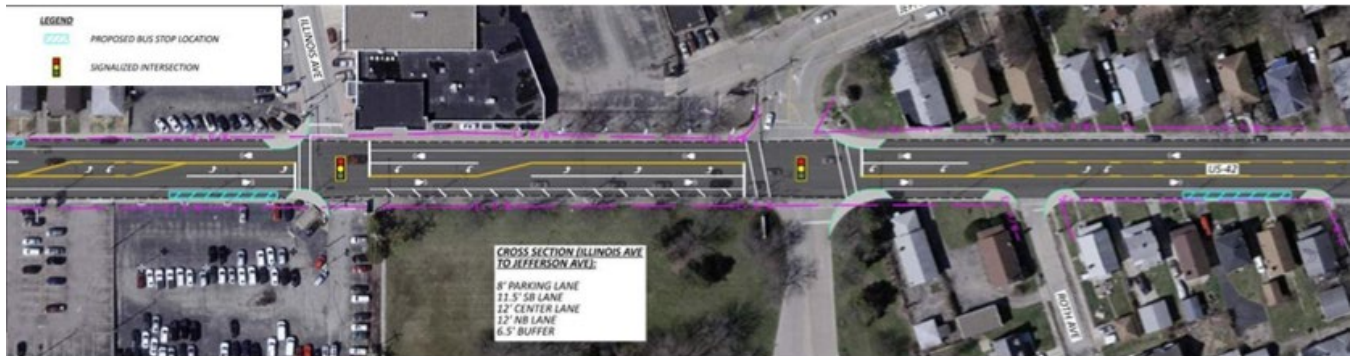
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CONCEPT PLAN (CLARK TO ANNA)



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CONCEPT PLAN (ANNA TO VOORHEES)



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CONCEPT PLAN (VOORHEES TO PIKE)



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CONCEPT PLAN (PIKE TO MECHANIC)



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CONCEPT PLAN (MECHANIC TO NORTH)

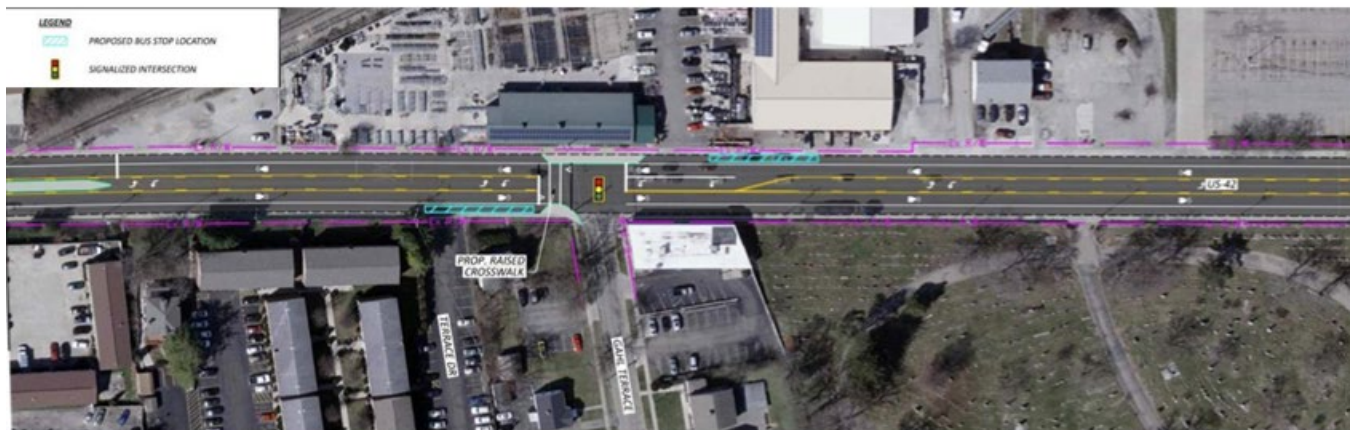


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CONCEPT PLAN (NORTH TO GAHL TERRACE)



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CONCEPT PLAN (GAHL TERRACE TO LANDY LN)



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CONCEPT PLAN (LANDY LN TO INCINERATOR LN)



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CONCEPT PLAN (INCINERATOR LN TO COOPER)



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(2) Buzz Deters (Energy Alliance)

- Present to answer any questions regarding the Electric Aggregation

Motion made by Mr, Powell, seconded by Mr. Bronner, to modify the resolution to include the Emergency clause in the title, as well as the description in the body of the resolution which further describes the reason for the emergency. Motion carried by a 6-0-1 roll call vote (Mr. Bishop recused himself from the vote).

Motion made by Mr, Powell, seconded by Mrs, Eadicicco, to go out of order from the agenda and read the resolution for voting. Motion carried by a 6-0-1 roll call vote (Mr. Bishop recused himself from the vote).

READING OF RESOLUTIONS:

(1) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN ELECTRIC AGGREGATION AGREEMENT WITH AN ELECTRIC SUPPLIER RECOMMENDED BY ENERGY ALLIANCES, INC., THE COMMUNITY'S ENERGY AGGREGATION CONSULTANT AND TO ENTER INTO SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENTS WITH REGARD TO THIS PROGRAM TO STABILIZE AND TO REDUCE COSTS AS NEEDED AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (Second Reading)

Motion made by Mr. Powell, seconded by Mr. Boehner to suspend the rule that requires a third reading. Motion carried by a 6-0-1 roll call vote (Mr. Bishop recused himself from the vote).

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Motion made by Mr. Powell, seconded by Mr. Bronner to adopt the resolution.
Motion carried by a 6-0-1 roll call vote (Mr. Bishop recused himself from the vote).

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2025-09R

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

GUEST ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL REPORTS:

MAYOR: Robert “Bo” Bemmes:

- St. John’s German Heritage Dinner on March 8 from 5:00-7:00 pm.
- Reading High School’s Athletic Boosters Fund Raser at Strongs Pizza 4:00-9:00 pm March 12.
- Urges everyone to get out and vote YES on State Issue 2 on the May 6th Primary.

SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR: Patrick Ross: *(No Report)*

LAW DIRECTOR: Dave Stevenson: *(No Report, Absent)*

TREASURER: Brenda Owens

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**City of Reading
February 2025 Income Tax Receipt Summary
With Prior Years Comparison**

Individual Residents Income Taxes

	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Change 24 to 25
January	\$79,333	\$97,988	\$140,011	\$107,314	-23.4%
February	\$37,035	\$62,179	\$73,859	\$63,674	-13.8%
March	\$131,391	\$120,959	\$127,546		
April	\$457,756	\$441,112	\$479,159		
May	\$102,421	\$73,112	\$73,028		
June	\$107,043	\$117,960	\$80,804		
July	\$28,939	\$35,819	\$29,749		
August	\$36,571	\$34,271	\$62,099		
September	\$78,608	\$86,325	\$77,164		
October	\$63,966	\$52,893	\$47,668		
November	\$64,047	\$25,276	\$66,383		
December	\$46,897	\$49,879	\$130,517		
Yearly Totals	\$1,234,007	\$1,197,773	\$1,387,987	\$170,988	
YTD Progress	\$116,368	\$160,167	\$213,870	\$170,988	-20.1%

Payroll Withholding Income Taxes

	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Change 24 to 25
January	\$689,143	\$699,906	\$721,376	\$667,033	-7.5%
February	\$441,735	\$483,701	\$495,911	\$565,608	14.1%
March	\$434,394	\$477,447	\$561,572		
April	\$752,396	\$701,491	\$733,139		
May	\$534,911	\$480,917	\$502,943		
June	\$470,151	\$475,836	\$585,100		
July	\$501,087	\$671,451	\$561,747		
August	\$591,928	\$459,951	\$547,775		
September	\$464,052	\$491,289	\$546,441		
October	\$606,041	\$580,966	\$575,534		
November	\$493,632	\$482,419	\$539,195		
December	\$462,692	\$469,943	\$605,426		
Yearly Totals	\$6,442,162	\$6,475,316	\$6,976,158	\$1,232,641	
YTD Progress	\$1,130,878	\$1,183,607	\$1,217,286	\$1,232,641	1.3%

Business Profits Income Taxes

	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Change 24 to 25
January	\$48,907	\$21,712	\$72,579	\$95,461	31.5%
February	\$24,719	\$17,868	\$30,745	\$56,538	83.9%
March	\$210,097	\$100,690	\$58,593		
April	\$274,272	\$231,557	\$162,557		
May	\$42,806	\$13,048	\$26,006		
June	\$399,300	\$136,640	\$143,130		
July	\$15,804	\$32,265	\$70,851		
August	\$22,399	\$38,469	\$56,349		
September	\$337,399	\$118,498	\$108,430		
October	\$22,564	\$18,497	\$16,253		
November	\$15,798	\$76,898	\$57,636		
December	\$48,456	\$53,959	\$45,256		
Yearly Totals	\$1,462,520	\$860,101	\$848,385	\$151,999	
YTD Progress	\$73,625	\$39,580	\$103,324	\$151,999	47.1%

Total Income Taxes Collected

	2022	2023	2024	2025	% Change 24 to 25
January	\$817,383	\$819,606	\$933,966	\$869,808	-6.9%
February	\$503,488	\$563,747	\$600,514	\$685,820	14.2%
March	\$775,881	\$699,095	\$747,711		
April	\$1,484,424	\$1,374,159	\$1,374,855		
May	\$680,137	\$567,077	\$601,977		
June	\$976,494	\$730,436	\$809,034		
July	\$545,830	\$739,534	\$662,347		
August	\$650,899	\$532,692	\$666,223		
September	\$880,060	\$696,112	\$732,034		
October	\$692,571	\$652,357	\$639,455		
November	\$573,477	\$584,593	\$663,214		
December	\$558,046	\$573,781	\$781,199		
Yearly Totals	\$9,138,690	\$8,533,190	\$9,212,530	\$1,555,628	
YTD Progress	\$1,320,871	\$1,383,353	\$1,534,480	\$1,555,628	1.4%

Total Refunds	2022	\$169,800	2023	\$666,149	2024	\$104,275	2025 Refunds =	\$16,659
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Brenda A. Owens- City Treasurer 03/03/25

AUDITOR: Sabrina Smith:

- February will be closed by tomorrow. Bank fees are the only items that need to be posted. I will send out February Month Statements after everything is in the month.
- GAAP Statement Items will need to be turned in by 3/14/25.
- Quarterly Bills and Reporting are due this month and into next month.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Andy Bronner

- I would like to talk about the 2 Ordinances that will be read tonight. The first is an ordinance to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$70,000 to replace a storm sewer on Furhman Road. This will be paid from the Street Maintenance Fund (2210).

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The second is an ordinance to purchase a fully outfitted Fire Department staff vehicle at an expenditure not to exceed \$68,00. If approved, this expenditure will be paid from the Fire/EMS Capital Improvement Fund (4242).

I would also like to announce that we are having a Finance committee meeting on March 11th at 6:00 in Council chambers.

UTILITIES, LANDS & BUILDINGS: Mark Bishop (No Report)

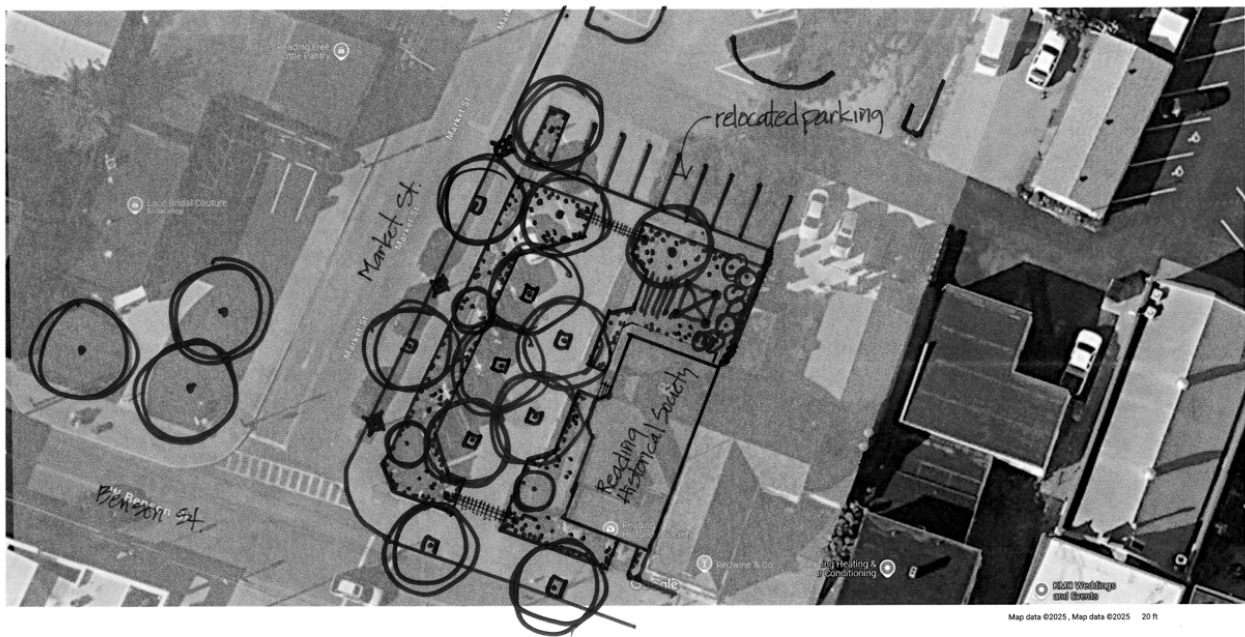
A meeting of the Utilities, Lands and Buildings committee is scheduled for Tuesday March 11 at 7pm in Council Chambers.

Topic to be discussed:

- a. A discussion about the planned parking lot design, specifically regarding greenspace.
- b. Discussion regarding potential greenspace on Market and Benson streets.
- c. Discussion of other potential opportunities for greenspace or improvements in the City.

See attached related documents provided by members of Rooted in Community.

Google Maps



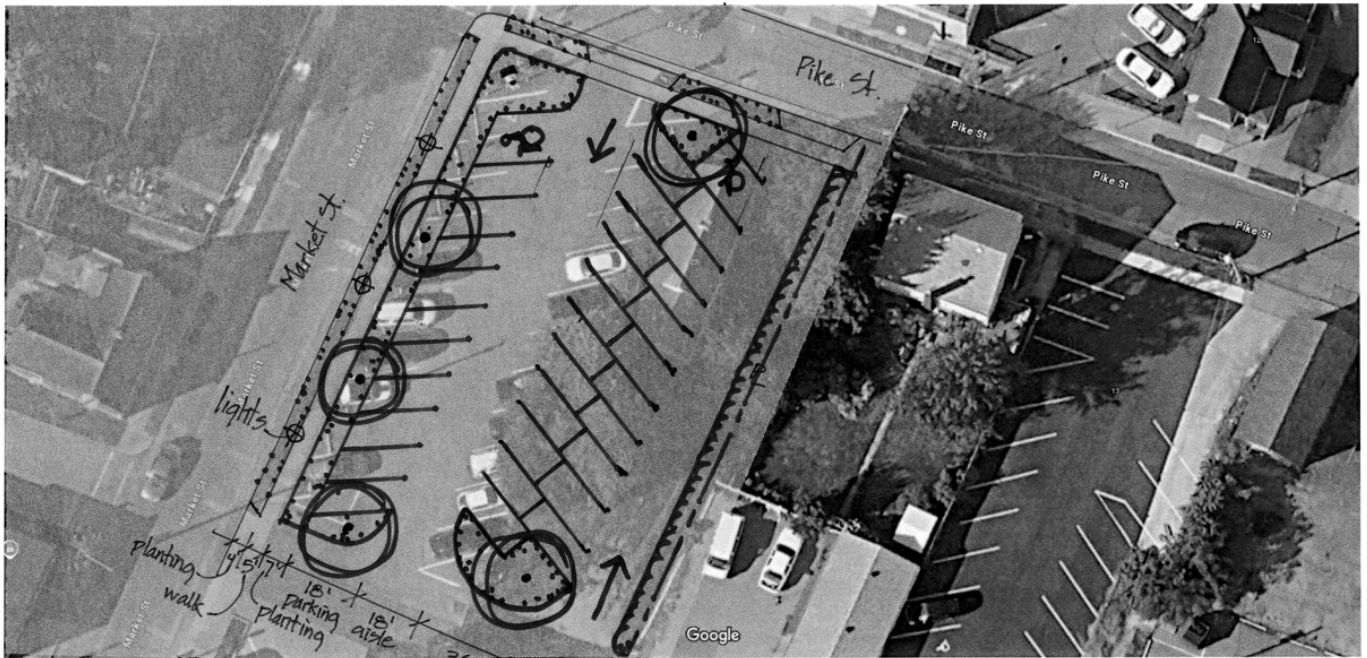
Benson/Market MiniPark

paving, lighting, benches,
tables, chairs, trees, shade,
gardens, features, ...

RIC
Rooted in Community 3-2-25

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Google Maps



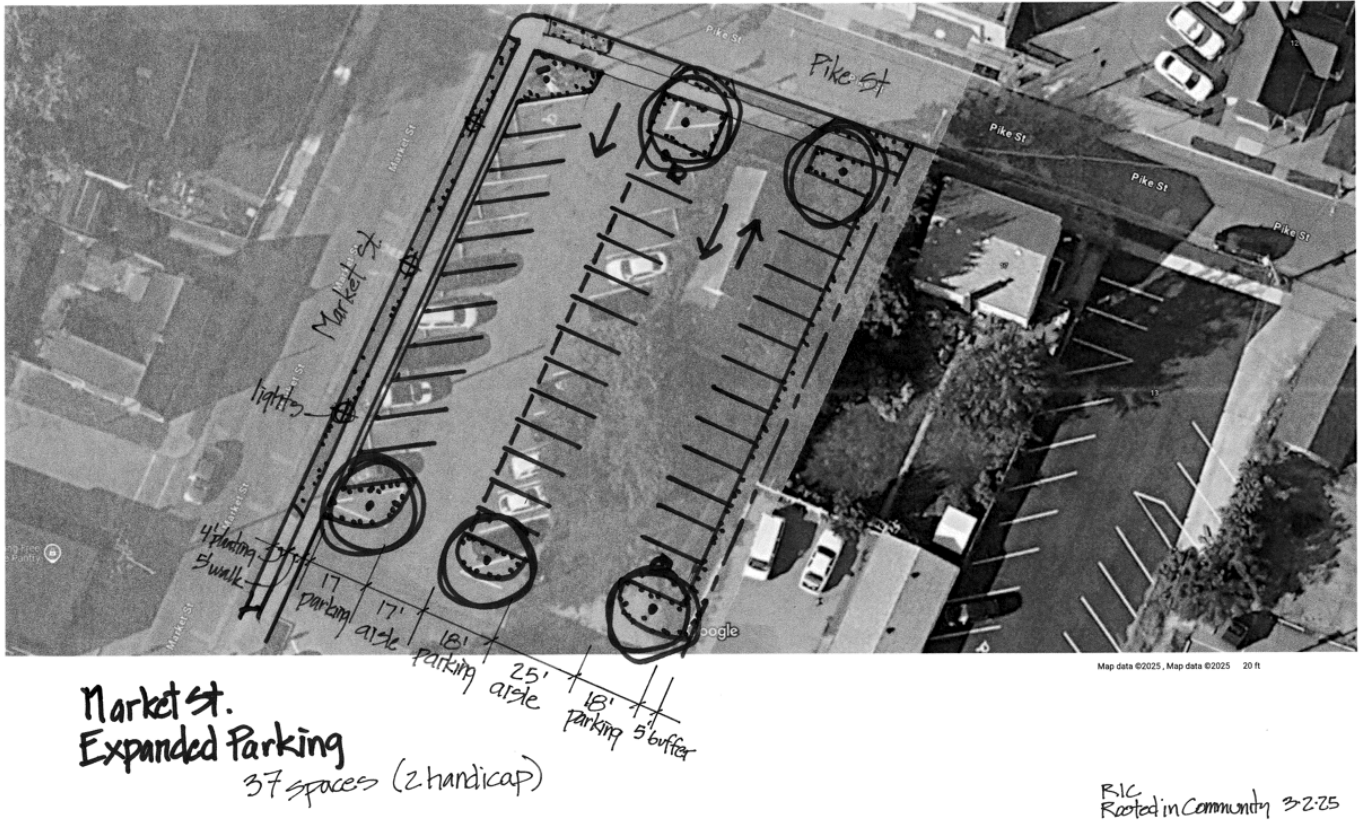
Market St.
Expanded Parking

33 spaces (2 handicap)

R/C
Reoted in Community 3/2/25

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Google Maps



1280.10 OFF-STREET PARKING DESIGN STANDARDS.

All off-street parking facilities including entrances, exits, circulation areas and parking spaces shall be in accordance with the following standards and specifications:

(A) *Dimensions.* Minimum standards dimensions for off-street parking spaces shall be as follows:

Angle of Parking (Degrees)	Width	Depth	Aisle Width
45 feet	9 feet	19.5 feet	12 feet
60 feet	9 feet	20.5 feet	16 feet
90 feet	9 feet	18.5 feet	26 feet

(H) *Drainage.* All parking areas shall provide for proper drainage of surface water to prevent the drainage of such water onto adjacent properties and onto sidewalks. For any off-street parking area of more than five vehicles, plans for drainage shall be submitted to the City Engineer for approval prior to the commencement of construction.

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(I) *Lighting.* Any parking area for five or more vehicles, which is intended to be used during non-daylight hours, shall be illuminated. Lighting fixtures shall be as follows:

(1) Any lights used to illuminate a parking lot shall be so arranged as to reflect the light away from the adjoining property.

(2) All lighting fixtures serving parking lots shall be of full cutoff fixtures. Such shielding shall obstruct a line of sight to the bulb with an opaque material when viewed from the property line.

(3) Light poles used in lots designed to contain 50 vehicles or less shall not exceed 20 feet in height.

1276.07 BUFFERING AND INTERIOR LANDSCAPING OF OFF-STREET PARKING AND OFF-STREET LOADING AREAS.

(A) *Buffering of off-street parking and loading areas.*

(B) *Interior landscaping of off-street parking areas.* Off-street parking areas containing more than 6,000 square feet of area or 20 or more vehicular parking spaces, whichever is less, shall provide interior landscaping of the peninsular or island types of uncompacted, well-drained soil as well as perimeter landscaping. For each 100 square feet or fraction thereof of vehicular use area, at least five square feet of landscape area shall be provided.

(2) Minimum tree specifications.

(a) In addition to any tree requirements required by the city, a two inch diameter tree (as measured six inches above ground) shall be planted for each 3,000 square feet of impervious surface.

When...	Is proposed to abut...	The minimum buffer area shall be...	With the following materials
Any use in the Public and Institutional District or Downtown Reading Mixed Use or the West Benson Street Mixed Use Districts	Any Residential District or Residential Land Use	10 Feet in Width	A six foot fence, wall or earthen mound/berm AND A mix of evergreen trees deciduous trees and shrubs to soften the fence, wall or mound/berm.
			OR
			A buffer area planted and maintained with evergreens at least five feet in height or an evergreen hedge at least four feet in height, situated so as to provide an effective opaque and permanent visual buffer upon installation.

1273.06 WEST BENSON STREET MIXED USE DISTRICT.

the following shall apply to this District:

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(a) No off-street parking or loading space should be accessed directly from Benson Street. Access should be provided by means of an alley or from the rear of the property.

(b) No off-street parking or loading space shall be located in any front or side yard.

Opportunity to develop Public Gathering Space in support of the DORA district

- Improve walkability (see Master plan) by eliminating vehicle/pedestrian conflict point at city lot drive/curb cut on Benson
- Extend streetscape elements to City Hall (Trees, boulevard lamps)
- Eliminate visual clutter associated with certain utility infrastructure

Parking area is approximately 18,000 sq. ft, thus 6 trees are required.

Additionally , 5% of this area (aprox. 900 sq.ft) should be interior landscaping



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Citywide Issues

Greenspace

As the City works to provide additional greenspace, concentrated efforts should be made to expand the City's tree canopy which provides both aesthetic and functional benefits, particularly as they relate to stormwater management. Before a rainstorm, tree roots have already increased the soil's capacity for storing rainwater as groundwater. During a rainstorm, tree foliage slows the impact of falling raindrops which reduces run-off and erosion. The size of a tree's canopy generally parallels the size of a tree's root system, so tree canopy is also a good indicator of run-off reduction. Overall, trees play a major role in preventing, reducing or at least slowing polluted storm water run-off to the City's surface water resources.

The map to the right shows the locations of existing tree canopy in Reading. The City would benefit from expanding the tree canopy in the western "Valley" portion of the City where little coverage currently exists.

Page 29 discusses steps the City can take to attain Tree City USA status.



Pairing Projects: The provision of greenspace can also aid in flood control efforts by reducing impervious surfaces, increasing the tree canopy, and providing stormwater storage.



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ZONING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT: Dave Powell

I am continuing to work to establish the limits of the Proposed Community Reinvestment Area in the valley area of town. I have come across an instance where the parcels have been reconfigured since the boundary of the existing CRA was drawn. I am reaching out for advice on how to resolve the discrepancy. I hope to have the limits completed this week and I will pass it along so the official map can be drafted and housing survey completed.

LAWS & CONTRACTS: Katie Eadicicco

On Saturday I sent out the updated Rules and Regulations Governing Council Procedure to all members of Council and the Administration. The only changes were on page 6 where section F was added explaining the procedure for cancelling a meeting and changes were made in the next section under the Mayor's Reports to Council. I changed that from an annual report to a monthly report as I believe that it is what we would all prefer and the Mayor continues to be an invited and welcomed guest of our council meetings.

I didn't receive any response or comments from anyone so I would like to go ahead and either open this up to discussion or move to vote on the updated council rules.

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Motion made by Mrs. Eadicicco, seconded by Mr. Boehner, to approve the revisions made to the Council Rules.
Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY: Shelly Kroeger

Next committee meeting will be held on March 11 at 6:30 pm in the Caucus Room.

Police Department run count for February 2025

Calls for service	1034
Auto Accidents	23
Booking Original Charges	92
Total Criminal Charges	132

Citations Issued

Hamilton County	5
Arlington Heights	28
Juvenile	0
Reading Mayor's	176
Total Citations	209

Fire Departments run count for February 2025

EMS Responses	184
Fire Responses	36
Total Responses	220

For the month of January, the police department had calls for theft, forgery, identity theft, OVI, disorderly conduct, overdoses, assault and stolen packages. Cars are still being broken into also. Please do not leave anything of value in your car. Female suspect had entered the business and stole items. During the investigation using the FLOCK system, a suspect was developed and charged with two counts of theft.

- Provided CPR/AED training for the teaching staff at the JCC on February 17th.
- The departmental banquet was held on February 22nd, congratulations to FF/EMT Joey Knight for receiving the department Mission & Vision award and to Captain Fischesser for receiving the Firefighter of the Year award.
- Members attended the Srs. of Notre Dame annual birthday event on February 25th

SERVICE: Bob Boehner

- Next committee meeting will be held on March 18 @ 6:30 pm in Council Chambers.

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Reading Public Works Council Report March 4,2025

City crews have been out patching potholes in the streets

City crew torn down the house at 23 Pike St to expand the city parking lot

City crews helped in flashing of the Fire Departments new training facility

City crews used approximately 1000 ton of salt in the last three snow encounters over the past few weeks

City crews have repaired (4) water main breaks on Alwil Dr, and water main breaks on Carol Dr ,Bernard Ave, Trillium Ct, and Jefferson & Southern Ave

City crew are trying to repair the furnace at the Haffey Field House or replacing the furnace to be determined

City crews have been working on remodeling the Safety Service Director office and it is done and looking fabulous

City crews have cleaned the pressure line at the pump house

City crews are removing the old signs at the parks and replacing them with new as the old signs were looking bad

City street Sweeper has been out cleaning streets

Additional 600 ton of salt has been ordered from Morton

RECREATION: Scott Thamann

- We are in the process of gathering competitive bids for new playground equipment.

I hope to have an ordinance for our next meeting.

- We have received drawings for the pool's filtration system. We will be putting those plans out for bid in the coming days.

- Looking ahead: We will host our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19 at the Haffey Fieldhouse at 10:00 a.m.

- Reading Clean-up Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, from 10-noon. I will have more information in the April report.

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OTHER BUSINESS: NONE

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

READING OF ORDINANCES:

(1) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY & SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ADLETA CONSTRUCTION TO REPLACE STORM SEWER FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED SEVENTY THOUSAND (\$70,000) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Thamann, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger to suspend the rule that requires a second and third reading.
Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mrs. Kroeger, seconded by Mr. Bishop to adopt the ordinance.
Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2025-10

(2) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR TO PURCHASE A NEW STAFF UNIT FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mr. Bronner to suspend the rule that requires a second and third reading.
Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote. Motion made by Mr. Boehner, seconded by Mrs. Kroeger to adopt the ordinance.
Motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2025-11

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Katie Eadicicco: I want to have a discussion after our next meeting during the Council of the Whole about possibly hosting a thank you dinner for our city employees. I'll talk to Patrick first about this and the budget but I believe this could come out of the Council budget. This will give me a couple weeks to work out more details and give everyone here some time to gather some thoughts and ideas as well. But I wanted to give everyone a heads up.

Council (50)		
Personal Services	Payroll	31,000.00
	Fringes	6,500.00
Supplies and Materials		5,500.00

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Boehner moved to adjourn. Mrs. Kroeger seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm.

X _____

Carla Albrinck
Clerk of Council

X _____

Kevin Mattscheck
President of Council