



May 21, 2024

City Council member Shawna Beese
City Council member Shaun Culler
City Council member Dan Sander
City Council member Kelly Stravens
City Council member Andy Van Hees

Dear City Council members,

Millwood Neighborhood Advocates is an organization committed to working with Millwood government to improve transparency and increase opportunities for Millwood citizen involvement. We are eager to preserve the small town atmosphere of our city. In this context we are writing to express our concern about the proposed widening of Argonne Avenue as it passes through our city. We strongly urge a pause in this project for the following reasons:

1. The proposal is inconsistent with the Millwood Comprehensive Plan which states, "The city's only major arterial, Argonne Road, should not be widened because it would further divide the community and increase the difficulty that pedestrians presently experience when crossing the road." (Millwood Comprehensive Plan, page 10)
2. Widening Argonne to incorporate left-turn lanes is designed to divert traffic onto East Empire, a street that has an acknowledged problem due to its heavy traffic and unenforced speed limit. This will increase the already high risk to residents and their children, as well as those who walk and cycle its length.
3. The option being pursued, i.e. the widening of Argonne to accommodate left turn lanes is not the preferred option in the Argonne Road Corridor Study (2008). The preferred option (#1) calls for optimizing the existing 4-lane road, making the best of what already exists. (Argonne Road Corridor Study 5-3).
4. The proposal is based on seriously out of date information, more than 17 years old. It does not take into account the long-term impacts of the North/South Freeway connection and the Bigelow Gulch realignment. These projects, when completed, should noticeably reduce traffic volumes on Argonne.

5. Construction will cause severe disruption to our business community. The last time major construction was undertaken on Argonne, Millwood businesses suffered enormous losses and some simply closed their doors. The plan for Argonne should not proceed, unless and until, methods to minimize this disruption are in place and have met the approval of Argonne businesses.

The members of the Millwood Neighborhood Advocates respectfully request a halt to the Argonne Corridor Project so that the concerns of our members and other Millwood citizens can be addressed through a fully transparent and comprehensive public review process. The goal should be to enhance the small town atmosphere of Millwood and bolster our downtown businesses.

We look forward to your response. Thank you and Let Millwood be Millwood.

Millwood Neighborhood Advocates

Cc: Mayor Kevin Freeman