

Submitted by Richard Wesely

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To: The City of Ashland

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Subject: Walnut Street Priority:

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Please submit my letter as a public comment to be included as part of the record on August 2, 2016

To: The City of Ashland, the Mayor, and City Council members
 Subject: Funding for street repairs and Walnut Street
 From: Craig Smith, homeowner on the corner of Wiley and Walnut since 1998

With respect to asking the voters on November 8th to allow the City of Ashland to divert excess funds generated by the meals and beverage taxes for the purpose of paying for much needed street repairs, if the voters agree, I have no problem with the funds being used in constructive ways.

With respect to which streets and roads would benefit from this additional funding, I would ask that Walnut Street be included on the list of priorities. The relatively short stretch of about 0.3 of a mile, from Luna Vista to the south and Tucker Street to the north, is unpaved and creates huge problems with dust most of the year. Many of us who live along Walnut St. contribute money (the Werich family generously coordinates the coating) once a year for a simple dust control coating which has a very short life span for being useful. Most of the year homeowners and pedestrians, including pets and children, have to deal with extreme dust being kicked up by passing vehicles, or at times even strong winds. I've had to keep my home's windows closed, quit trying to grow garden vegetables in my raised beds near Walnut St., my vehicle is almost always covered with dust, my regular walks in the neighborhood are usually accompanied by clouds of dust each time a vehicle passes by. The dust is not only an extreme annoyance, but likely a health hazard as well, especially for those with respiratory issues.

It's been brought to my attention over the years, that chip-sealing Walnut Street would be an excellent and long lasting solution to this particular problem. I am strongly encouraging, and asking the City of Ashland to help those of us who live in this neighborhood, to set aside the relatively small amount of funding it would take to chip-seal Walnut Street., and then agree to make it happen fairly soon. We're all very tired of the constant dust and all the many problems it causes. Do what's right and fair. Please chip-seal Walnut Street. Thank you.

Sincerely, Craig G. Smith
 401 Wiley Street
 Ashland 541-488-7944

