

Oldham Era

Opinion

Community needs push for change

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As county officials and residents planned ways to make the Ky. 393 and Ky. 146 area a more pedestrian-friendly area last week, a certain excitement filled the air.

The interurban greenway project was connected with trails that would lead residents through the Buckner school campus to Wendell Moore Park and the new 55-acre sports park planned in the area. Pedestrian signs would be added. A roundabout would be placed near the interchange of the new proposed section of Ky. 393 and the old road. Subdivisions would also be connected by trails -- and the push for a "home grown" shopping center, as one person put it, would allow students and residents to walk to the store and movies instead of drive.

All were very enterprising ideas. And as each group planned development in the area, several people discussed the fear that if something isn't done now, the 393 area would become the Springhurst of Oldham County -- complete with big box stores and crowded housing -- before anyone could do anything about it.

It was clear everyone wanted the plans being proposed at the workshop presented by The National Center for Bicycling and Walking. What wasn't clear was who was going to fight for them. It's a problem that has arguably plagued the county for many years. Many officials want smart growth -- but they don't have the drive to fight for it.

Subdivision regulations and school capacity standards will hopefully set the tone for a project like this. As these regulations are currently in the development stages, we urge county officials to look one step further and begin planning a walkable community in Oldham County now.

If we keep saying we can't do it now, we never will. And then the big stores will come. Subdivisions will grow, more students will come to the area, taxes will be raised and, all the while, we will have wondered where the time has gone.

Not to mention the sedentary lifestyle we have been encouraged to live by not providing pedestrian-friendly living in the area. We now live in a generation where we could live longer than our children.

We have to do something now. Will someone please take the reins?

