



**David S. Mann**  
*Vice Mayor/Councilmember*

2016 00057

## MOTION

WE MOVE that the Administration prepare a report to Council on potential options for purchasing the right of way necessary to begin construction of the Wasson Way bike trail.

Vice Mayor David Mann

Yvette P. Simpson, Esq.

## **STATEMENT**

In June of last year, Council authorized the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Norfolk Southern Railroad to purchase 4.1 miles of right of way for \$11,757,000.00 to build the Wasson Way bike trail. The purchase agreement between the City and Norfolk Southern expires on July 1, 2016, so time is of the essence if we hope to take ownership without spending significant funds just to extend the agreement.

As Council prepares to make many important decisions as part of the FY17 budget process, we request this report so as to have a serious discussion about the options available to the City for the purchase of this right of way.

The construction of Wasson Way has been, and will continue to be, a priority for this Council. When completed, Wasson Way will connect residents and businesses in nine different neighborhoods with a new transportation option to move through our city. Even better, in the long term, Wasson Way will also support the ambitious Cincinnati Connects plan to tie together 42 miles of bike trails around the city.