

## SUMMARY-

For 30 years, Ball State University and the Muncie Downtown have looked for a partnership that leads to “connection” from the Village at BSU to Downtown Muncie. With the paving, sidewalk/curb work that Muncie is doing plus funding that Ball State will put toward artful intersections and exciting signage, we can solve this by this ordinance. We want to put bike lanes on both the north side and south side of University Avenue. A 30-year challenge to getting more students to visit our downtown, local establishments is now within reach. Downtown Development, The City of Muncie, Ball State University, and Muncie Arts and Culture Commission are all in support (see letters).

## UNIVERSITY AVENUE:

There are approximately 48 homes on the south side of University. Every one of them has an active alley behind the house for parking. Many also have garages. We decided to check out how many are parking on the street and how many are not.

THE RESULTS of the 27 days of research was clear. Very few use the street for parking.

Outside of “move in” day, **there were  $2+3+1+3+2= 11$  total cars parked on the street** in the days tested.

**Out of state plates accounted for  $0+3+1+2+2= 8$  cars** parked on the street. That’s 73% of the cars parked are likely students. Landlords are expected to provide adequate parking...and most are doing so.

This means that **only 3 Muncie vehicles parked** on the street during those 5 test days. Less than **0.6 cars per day**. Compared to 48 homes. University Avenue is clearly not a highly utilized street for parking. It is, however, a highly used street by our first responders. No parking makes it safer for first responders.

Students are provided off street parking behind the homes with alley access by their landlords. Most of the 48 homes are parking at the rear of the home.

We ask that the council approve this Ordinance to remove parking and allow bike lanes on the north and south side of the street.



**BALL STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

September 4, 2025

Mayor Dan Ridenour  
Muncie City Hall  
300 N. High Street  
Muncie, IN 47305

Dear Mayor Ridenour,

Ball State University supports the City's proposed plan to add bicycle lanes along University Avenue between Dicks Street and Wheeling Avenue. Improving connectivity between The Village and downtown Muncie is a critical component of our overall revitalization strategy, and something we have regularly emphasized with our project partners. Our College and Community Collaboration grant with the Lilly Endowment references the goal of creating a stronger physical connection to downtown Muncie. The City's investment into new street paving, sidewalk improvements, and new bicycle lanes helps achieve this.

With the Lilly Endowment grant, Ball State University will provide supplemental funds to enhance the crosswalks along University Avenue. We have seen effective crosswalk designs using colored thermoplastic to create more artistic, appealing, and safer routes for pedestrians and cyclists. We will work with your team to create a similar unique design along University Avenue.

In addition, Ball State wants to strengthen the connection along Martin Street between The Village and White River Greenway. We know the existing shared use path has not been well maintained. Ball State University will install new landscaping along this path in conjunction with the new residential development currently under construction. We will then assume responsibility for permanently maintaining this planting strip along the shared use path, similar to how we maintain the planting areas along Neely Avenue between campus and Wheeling Avenue.

We will continue to work with your team to explore ways of improving connectivity between campus and downtown Muncie.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey S. Mearns  
President



September 8, 2025

To: Members of the Muncie City Council

Re: Ordinance 29-25

On behalf of Muncie Downtown Development Partnership, our organization recognizes and values the City's commitment to enhancing pedestrian connections to downtown. This initiative aligns with MDDP's mission to foster a downtown environment that promotes sustainable economic and cultural growth.

Strengthening the physical and experiential connection between campus and downtown encourages greater engagement from students, faculty, and staff; supporting local businesses, enriching cultural life, and reinforcing Downtown as a welcoming destination for all.

These investments foster a healthier, more vibrant, and more connected community, while strengthening downtown as a central destination for residents, businesses, and visitors. Improved walkability and accessibility also enhance quality of life, making our city more welcoming and livable for all.

We appreciate the Council's consideration of this ordinance and its role in advancing improvements that will benefit the entire Muncie community.

Respectfully,

Garrett C. Doan  
Board President  
Muncie Downtown Development Partnership



September 8, 2025

The Honorable Jeff Green - District 1  
The Honorable Nora Roberts - District 2  
The Honorable Brandon Garrett - District 3  
The Honorable Sara Gullion - District 4  
The Honorable Jerry Dishman - District 5  
The Honorable Harold Mason Jr. - District 6  
The Honorable Dale Basham - At Large  
The Honorable Ro Selvey - At Large  
The Honorable William McIntosh, Sr. - At Large  
Muncie City Hall  
300 N High Street  
Muncie, IN 47305

Dear City of Muncie Council Members,

As the city's arts partner, Muncie Arts and Culture Council (MuncieArts) appreciates the opportunity to fulfill our mission by supporting the University Avenue improvements. MuncieArts champions arts experiences, public art, and a thriving community of artists and allies in Muncie, Indiana. Given our focus, we support the artistic crosswalk patterns and designs connecting the bike lanes planned for the north and south sides of University Ave.—a similar initiative successfully accomplished in many other cities nationwide and around the world.

Arts and culture in our community takes many forms, but collectively they power economic growth; sustainable communities people want to visit, move to, and live; and improve our health and wellness. Some related facts:

- Delaware county's Arts Vibrancy Score is 84, meaning we score better than 84% of counties nationwide based on our arts dollars, arts providers, and public support rankings, according to Southern Methodist University. MuncieArts is working with our partners, including the City of Muncie, to maintain and increase this annual score.
- Two-thirds of Americans agree that the arts make them a more creative person and 72% of business leaders say that creativity is highly important when hiring new talent, according to the Americans for the Arts.
- The arts also attract talent, engage customers, and build vibrant economies, according to AFTA.
  - 50% of Americans consider arts when choosing where to live and work, and
  - 70% say arts improve their community's identity

- Research reported by AFTA also shows neighborhoods with strong arts presence experience higher civic engagement, stronger social connections, better child welfare outcomes, and lower poverty rates.

Thank you for your full consideration of this important corridor between Muncie's downtown and Ball State University's campus.

If you have any questions about our support, please do not hesitate to contact me at [tania@munciearts.org](mailto:tania@munciearts.org). I welcome further conversation about how artists, creatives, makers, and other individuals and organizations who are part of our arts and culture community can further power our growth and prosperity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tania Said'.

Tania Said  
Executive Director



## POTENTIAL UNIVERSITY AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS

University Avenue would have a 5' bike lane striped on the north side and south side of the street, between Dicks Street and Wheeling Avenue. Ball State University will work with the city and their selected design professional to provide an artistic crosswalk pattern and design along this route. Crosswalk designs could be installed using a thermoplastic product (DuraTherm®) to create a more visually appealing, unique, and safe route for pedestrians and cyclists. Examples of this application used for crosswalks are shown below:



*Note: Images are shown for illustrative purposes only and are not recommendations for the ultimate designs for new crosswalks along University Avenue.*