REVISED

REF: M-5-24 DATE: June 13, 2024

GENERAL INFORMATION

| <u>Subject</u> | | |
|--|-------------|---|
| Request | - | Bridge Review of University of Toledo Bridge over Douglas Road south of University Hills Blvd |
| Applicant | - | University of Toledo 2801 W Bancroft Street Toledo, OH 43606 |
| Civil Engineer | - | DGL Consulting Engineers, LLC 3455 Briarfield Blvd, Suite E Maumee, OH 43537 |
| Landscape Architect | - | Edge 33 S Michigan St, Suite 304 Toledo, OH 43604 |
| Site Description | | |
| Zoning Existing Use Proposed Use | - - - | IL / Light Industrial Street Right-of-Way Street Right-of-Way & Pedestrian Bridge |
| Area Description | | |
| North South | - | RD6 / Douglas Road, Ottawa River IL, IG / Douglas Road, University of Toledo Engineering Campus |
| East | - | RD6 / Westwood Avenue, Single Dwelling Homes, Duplexes |
| West | - | IL, RD6, RS6 / University of Toledo Main Campus |
| Parcel History | | |
| M-5-73 | - | Review of the grading, draining, curbing, paving and installation of sidewalks on Westwood Avenue (Relocated) from Dorr Street to Kenwood Boulevard |
| T-214-78 | - | Transfer of Title from the City of Toledo to The University of Toledo, in exchange for property transferred from the University to the City for the relocation of Westwood Avenue (P.C. approved 8/21/78) |

GENERAL INFORMATION (cont'd)

Applicable Plans and Regulations

- Toledo Municipal Code Part Eleven: Planning and Zoning
- Toledo 20/20 Comprehensive Plan
- Forward Toledo Plan

STAFF ANALYSIS

The University of Toledo (UT) has requested permission to construct a pedestrian bridge over Douglas Road between John F. Savage Arena and their property along N Westwood Avenue (near the intersection with Marwood Avenue). Per the Toledo Charter, Section 190, the Plan Commission shall review the plan, design and location of bridges in the City.

Douglas Road acts as a barrier between UT's Main and Engineering Campuses. Currently there are only two safe methods of crossing Douglas Road: a signalized crossing at intersection with Oakwood Avenue and an underpass along Bancroft Street. These crossings are ½ mile from each other. A number of students opt to cross Douglas Road where it is more convenient – near Savage Arena about midway between safe crossings. This crossing is considered dangerous due to Douglas Road's high speeds and steep embankments. The addition of a pedestrian bridge will eliminate these dangerous crossings and provide a safe and convenient crossing for students wishing to walk between UT's Main and Engineering Campuses.

Forward Toledo Plan

The Forward Toledo Plan highlights a lack of connectivity in Toledo's existing pedestrian and Bike infrastructure. As such, one of its goals is to increase connectivity. Douglas Road acts as a barrier between the Bancroft Hills neighborhood and UT's Main Campus - a desirable place to walk which has connections to the University Parks and Chessie Circle Trails. The proposed pedestrian bridge is compatible with the Forward Toledo Plan because it removes this barrier and increases connectivity.

Bridge Design

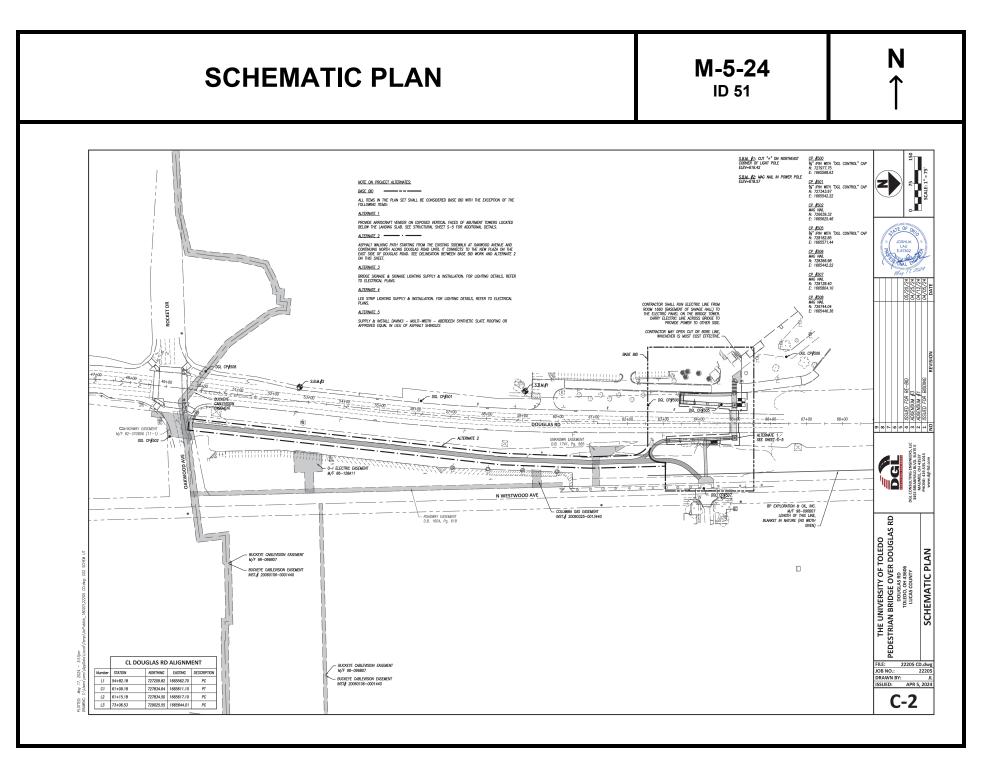
While the towers on either side of the bridge use UT's signature Lannon Stone façade near their tops, the majority of the towers are concrete. The majority-concrete towers in addition to the concrete stairs/ramps make the bridge aesthetically bare and out of character with UT's architecture. Staff suggests adding architectural interest by adding either Lannon Stone or an alternative manufactured stone or grey thin-brick to the base of the towers. The additional architectural interest would enhance the pedestrian experience and further promote UT's signature architecture.

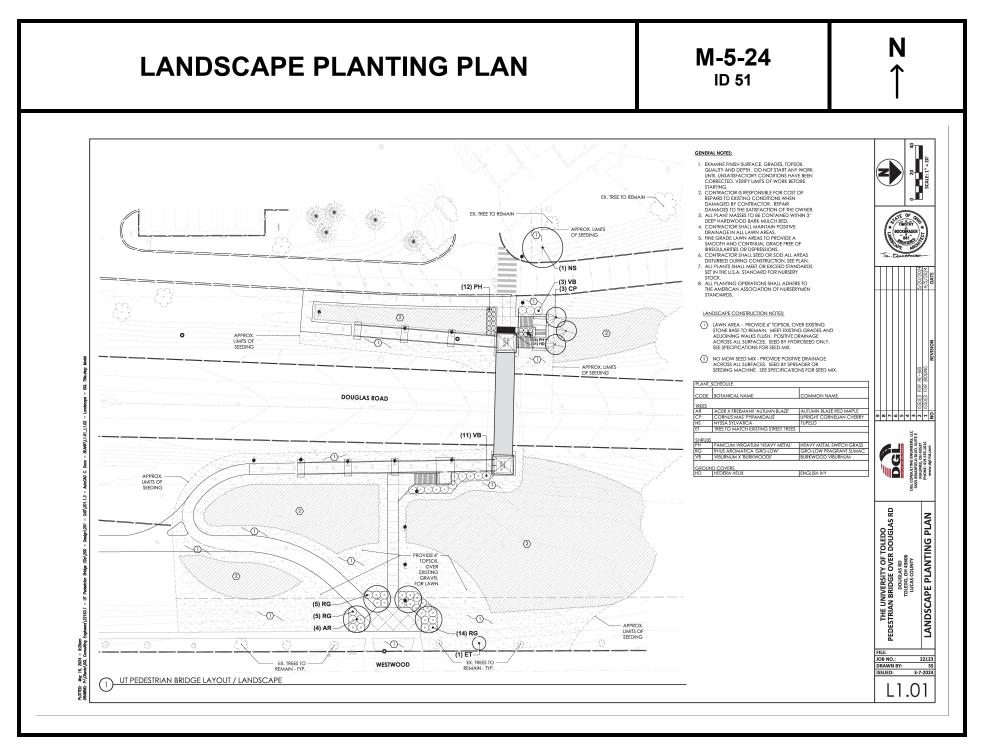
STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Toledo City Plan Commission approve the pedestrian bridge over Douglas Road between John F. Savage Arena and properties along N Westwood Avenue because it increases pedestrian connectivity and addresses dangerous crossings that currently occur across Douglas Street.

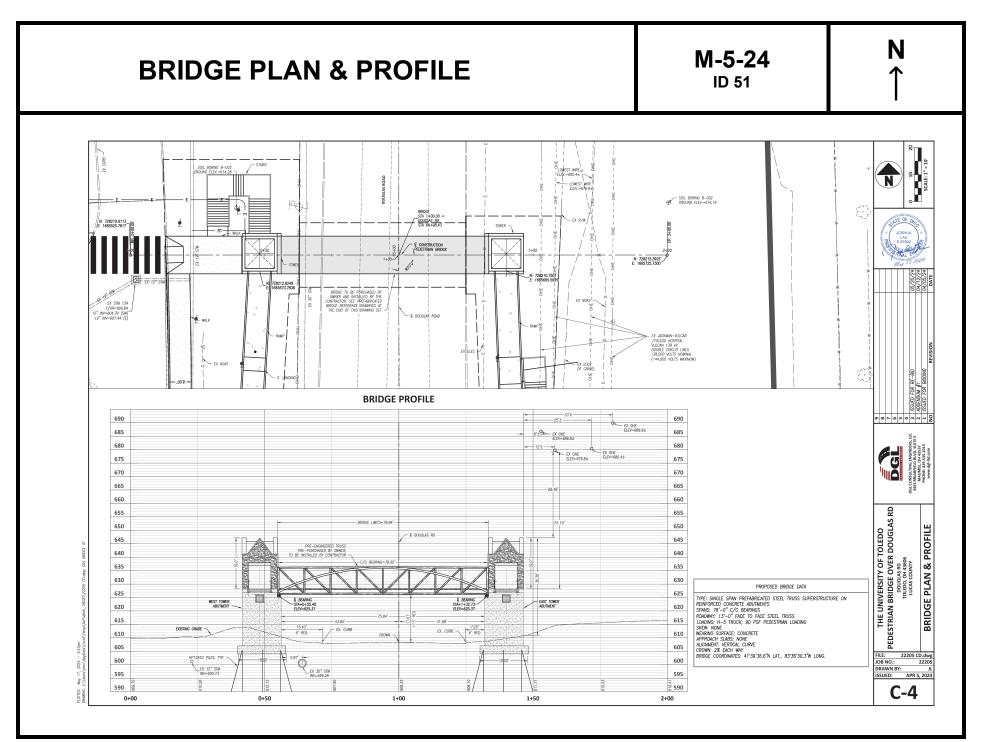
BRIDGE REVIEW TOLEDO CITY PLAN COMMISSION REF: M-5-24 DATE: June 13, 2024 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

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