

Dear City Council Member,

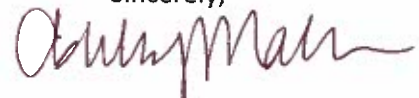
I am writing you today to ask your support in completing the pedestrian/student walkway at 15th street as an entrance to East Trails Middle School.

As a parent of three and a member of the Newberry subdivision, my children will all attend the new middle school and will have to walk to school each day. We live one street over from the originally anticipated pedestrian entrance. Moving forward, if the city decides to rescind their original plans for the school my children, along with many, will have to walk at least an additional half mile each day to get to school or cut through a property.

Many of you are parents as well and I am sure worry about safe transportation for your children as they go to and from school each day. We worry about them paying attention while crossing the street and hoping that other drivers are paying attention to them as well. The addition of high school baseball and softball fields on the East Trails Campus brings in additional teenage drivers and many of these young drivers are already distracted talking to friends and/or immersed in technology making the risk of walking students greater, especially in the afternoon hours. In addition to the time needed to walk to school, students in our neighborhood will be walking in elements including heat, severe cold, rain and even traversing over unclean sidewalks in the winter months; all these factors add concern to myself and neighbors with students.

Having a third, centrally located pedestrian walk way adds safe options for ALL families in our neighborhood, not just the ones on the north and south side. I strongly urge you in considering the completion of the central/ 15th street walkway when you review this matter tonight at the public hearing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ashley Malone", with a stylized, cursive script.

Ashley Malone
924 SE 14th Terrace
Lees Summit, MO 64081