

City of Akron Timeline of Citizen Engagement: Proposed WM Waste Transfer Station

DATE	DETAIL
November 23, 2023	The City of Akron formalized a contract with Waste Management (WM) that stipulated that the City would assist in the company seeking a new site for the Waste Transfer Station (WTS).
July 2022-2024	The City of Akron and WM rigorously reviewed potential properties (both those that were owned by the City and privately owned properties) for WM's further consideration.
February 10, 2024	Director of Sustainability and Resiliency, Casey Shevlin, and Mayor Malik met with the FACTS group and residents of the Middlebury neighborhood that live near to the existing waste transfer station on Fountain Street. The FACTS group made a presentation to Mayor Malik and Director Shevlin where they all engaged in further group discussion. After hearing their presentation and participating in discussion with the group, Director Shevlin attended a ride along with community members.
February 27, 2024	WM informed the City that it had identified a preferred site and would begin purchase negotiations with private property ownership for the new waste transfer facility.
May 16, 2024	Engagement with Ward 5, Ward 6, and Ward 10 council members. Director Shevlin and Chief of Strategy Nanette Pitt met with the Ward 5, 6, and 10 councilpersons regarding citizen engagement and outreach with respect to the proposed waste transfer station. During this discussion, members of the Administration learned that the Ward 5 councilman does not hold monthly ward meetings but, rather, only holds meetings every other month and that the Ward 5 councilman had no intent to hold a meeting in June. In light of this information, it was jointly discussed and agreed upon by all who were present, including the Ward 5 councilman, that Ward 5 would co-host the upcoming Ward 10 and Ward 6 ward meetings and the Ward 5 councilman would apprise his constituents of those meetings, encouraging them to attend the same. The stated and understood purpose of these meetings was to allow residents to meet WM representatives, learn more about WM's proposal for the Archwood facility, and to facilitate further dialog and discussion.
June 4, 2024	Mayor Malik, Director Shevlin, Director of Public Service, Chris Ludle, and COS Pitt further engaged with the FACTS group and other Middlebury neighbors at a community meeting. The Ward 5 councilman was directly contacted and invited to participate in this meeting via an email dated May 31, but he chose not to attend. Conversely, the Ward 10 councilwoman did attend and actively engaged with residents and city staff regarding WM's proposal. During the meeting, Director Shevlin updated the group about the Archwood site, the forthcoming conditional use process, and provided all in attendance with information about upcoming engagement/public comment opportunities. After the formal meeting ended, City staff remained available to the public for further discussion, fielding questions and other inquiries.
June 12, 2024	The City Administration facilitated public tours of the Oakwood facility. City Administration even drove members of the public who needed a ride to the tour. WM hosted these tours and answered questions posed by those attending.
June 14, 2024	The City Administration issued a press release, advising the public of: the proposed site for a new transfer station on Archwood, the conditional use process that would be forthcoming (with public comment opportunities), the dates and times of upcoming ward meetings that would feature this content and would provide a forum for public discussion of the proposed transfer station in advance of an anticipated Planning Commission meeting, and information about availability of upcoming public tours at the WM Oakwood waste transfer station.
June 15-16, 2024	Members of the City Administration, on foot, canvassed residential portions of Wards 5 and 10 within 1,000 feet to the west and within 1,500 feet to the east of the proposed facility site. As part of this boots-on-the-ground, door-to-door, effort, City Administration provided residents with a fact sheet about waste transfer, laid out the conditional use process, and apprised residents of the upcoming Ward 10 and Ward 6 ward meetings. These meetings were aimed at addressing the waste transfer station proposal. For those residents who were willing to speak with the canvassers, City Administration urged them to come to these upcoming meetings. It was later confirmed at these

	meetings that the City Administration's canvassing efforts were at least somewhat successful, as multiple residents attending these meetings brought with them the fact sheets previously distributed.
June 18, 2024	Two Ward 10 ward meetings specifically aimed at addressing questions and concerns regarding the proposed WM Archwood facility were held on June 18, one at 12:30 pm and one at 6:00 pm. The midday meeting was attended by Director Shevlin, Development Manager David Messner, Planning Director Kyle Julien, Director Ludle, and COS Pitt. At this meeting, WM personnel presented, in-person, and fielded questions from the public. The Ward 5 councilman attended this meeting, though it is unclear whether he invited or brought any of his own constituency. On behalf of the City Administration, the evening meeting was attended by Director Shevlin, Director Julien, and Director Ludle. Director Shevlin presented at this meeting, and city staff fielded questions from the public.
June 20, 2024	A Ward 6 ward meeting was held at 6 pm on June 20. City personnel in attendance consisted of Director Shevlin, Director Julien, Director Ludle, and COS Pitt. WM personnel were present and presented information. Thereafter, WM fielded questions from the public. The Ward 5 councilman also attended this meeting, though it was unclear whether he invited or brought any of his own constituency to this meeting.
June 22, 2024	The City Administration organized and facilitated additional public tours of WM's Oakwood facility. WM hosted and answered questions during these tours.
June 28, 2024	The City met its full obligation for public notice pursuant to the codified ordinances. In this instance the City went above and beyond its legal requirements and proceeded to send notice for the Planning Commission meeting to properties within 1,000 feet to the west and 1,500 feet to the east (as an extended footprint was warranted to reach the residential areas).
July 9, 2024	The City Administration once again organized and facilitated more public tours of the Oakwood facility. WM hosted and answered questions for those in attendance.
July 10, 2024	Upon learning that a valued Akron business owner, Mr. Gary Didado, had expressed concerns and questions regarding WM's proposed facility on Archwood, the City Administration hosted him and his business affiliates, and their legal representation, at City Hall for further discussion.
July 18, 2024	Director Shevlin and COS Pitt attended the July Ward 5 ward meeting. Despite advance efforts from the City Administration to place WM and the WM transfer station on the agenda for this meeting, the Ward 5 councilman declined to allow time for this matter at his July meeting, indicating that Summa and HATCo would be allocated the entirety of the meeting. Despite this refusal, and in the hopes that the Ward 5 councilman would indeed permit time for discussion about the WM transfer station, COS Pitt and Director Shevlin personally attended this meeting. Unfortunately, COS Pitt and Director Shevlin did not have the opportunity to speak during this meeting.