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### Wright Brothers icon group seeks support from Englewood Council

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(Photo by Marilyn McConahay)

Stephen Brown, vice president of Wright Image Group, describes the conceptual model of the icon of the Wright Brothers Aeroplane that is to be placed at the intersection of Interstate 70 and Interstate 75. The display was in the lobby of the Englewood Government Center.

By Marilyn McConahay

For the Independent

Once it's in place, the "icon to flight" proposed by the non-profit Wright Image Group Inc. will tower over the freeway overpasses at the intersection of Interstates 70 and 75, making it highly visible to passersby in an estimated 52 million vehicles a year.

Stephen P. Brown, of Brown and Bills Architects of Englewood and vice president of the Image Group, appeared before the Englewood City Council at its Sept. 25 meeting to ask for the city's support of the project. The icon consists of a model of the famous Wright Brothers' "aeroplane," suspended atop a 220-foot high pedestal, with a wingspan of 120 feet.

"The goal is to get the world to recognize Dayton as the birthplace of aviation. What has changed the world more than flight?" Brown said. "This is a hotbed of innovation and development. The icon will be a single image of our region."

With the conceptual model of the Wright Flyer on display in the lobby of the Government Center, Brown explained that Singer Properties and the State of Ohio has donated land to Wright Image Group for the project.

Although Brown and Jon Kurtz, Wright Image Group board member, were at the council meeting to seek support for the project in the form of a resolution, they said that as the project moves along, they will also be asking for donations.

"We have not sought funds; right now we're seeking endorsements," Brown said. "We're taking 'baby steps,' like checking out the site and preparing to enter the engineering stage, but the goal is to get the icon put up."

The exact cost of the project is not yet known, but could be from \$7 to \$10 million.

Another visitor was Interim Superintendent of the Northmont School District Dr. Sarah Zatik, who discussed the successful start of the school year and school finances.

"I would like to communicate consistently and well. You can contact me at [szatik@northmontschools.com](mailto:szatik@northmontschools.com)," Zatik said.

Mary Laughter of Vandalia, whose sister, Becky Meade, was killed by a motorist while riding her bicycle on Philadelphia Drive at Bon Air in October of 2009, asked the council to consider placing "Share the Road" signs along city streets.

"Over 700 cyclists die a year from these types of crashes," Laughter said. "In the Miami Valley area in the last 90 days, we have had three fatalities and approximately six injuries."

"I have thought of some of the places that could benefit from signage are possibly along Taywood Road, Wenger Road and Union Road," she said.

She reported that the City of Vandalia is in the final stages of determining where to place signs and that she has had positive feedback from the City of Clayton and Butler Twp. as well.

Laughter said she believes the signs cost under \$100.

In council action, the following items were approved:

An ordinance amending the city's investment and depository policy in order to maximize returns on the city's investment portfolio in light of recent financial market activity. The measure will allow an investment strategy that will result in approximately \$5,000 additional investment earnings per month.

A resolution amending certain employment policies in the city's Rules of Merit Employment, having to do with threats of workplace violence, accommodations under the American Disabilities Act and job-related medical examinations.

A resolution revising the amount of a contract with Coate Construction for curb and sidewalk work from \$100,000 to \$150,000 due to a higher than anticipated number of curbs, sidewalks and aprons that needed to be replaced. City Manager Eric Smith said the city's leaf pick-up program started early this year due to the dry season causing leaves to fall earlier than usual.

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