

Bob Mollette

3rd Ward Councilman

1705 Franklin Blvd.
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

Phone: 740-353-0099
email: mollette@mollette.info
website: www.mollette.info

Correspondence#: 08-019

May 8, 2008

Arthur F. Kuhn, Managing Editor
The Portsmouth Daily Times
637 Sixth Street
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

Re: Neighborhood Support

Each Tuesday edition of the *The Columbus Dispatch*, a new section (enclosed) titled "The Watch," is devoted to improving neighborhood problems. I feel a similar application in the *Portsmouth Daily Times* has the potential to educate, engage, and encourage improvements within our neighborhoods.

"Is there a problem in your neighborhood? Tell The Watch. Each Tuesday, *The Dispatch* features a problem from Columbus, its suburbs and surrounding counties and explains how officials are working – or not working – to fix it. Then we'll keep watch to make sure they keep their word. Call The Watch hot line at 614-461-8731 or send e-mail to thewatch@dispatch.com."

If you should have any questions contact me.

Respectfully,



Bob Mollette, 3rd Ward Advocate and Representative on City Council

Rwm

Enclosure

cc: Honorable Council Members
Jim Kalb, Mayor
Trent Williams, Auditor
Michael Jones, Solicitor
Jo Ann Aeh, Clerk (Record)

THE WATCH

Is there a problem in your neighborhood? Tell The Watch. Each Tuesday, *The Dispatch* features a problem from Columbus, its suburbs and surrounding counties and explains how officials are working — or not working — to fix it. Then we'll keep watch to make sure they keep their word. Call The Watch hot line at 614-461-8731 or send an e-mail to thewatch@dispatch.com.

Crumbling curbs on 4th Street bridge must wait until 2011

By Jim Woods
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Sections of the curb on the 4th Street bridge resemble a crumb cake.

Flakes of concrete litter the road, and rusted rebar is exposed in places along the curb. State and Columbus officials recognize that something must be done about the span over railroad tracks between Nationwide Boulevard and Goodale Street.

About 19,110 cars use the bridge each day, according to a 2006 count by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. Commuters heading north out of downtown crowd the bridge each evening.

The Ohio Department of Transportation has scheduled

the bridge's deck for rehab in 2011, said Nancy Burton, a department spokeswoman.

The project, expected to cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, will include replacing the sidewalks and curbs, Burton said.

Columbus will help pay for the design work, said Mary Carran Webster, assistant public service director.

The crummy curbs did cause the city to consider plans to replace them in 2009. But the \$200,000 cost scotched that idea; plus, whatever is built would be ripped out anyway, Webster said.

"We didn't feel it was a good use of city money."

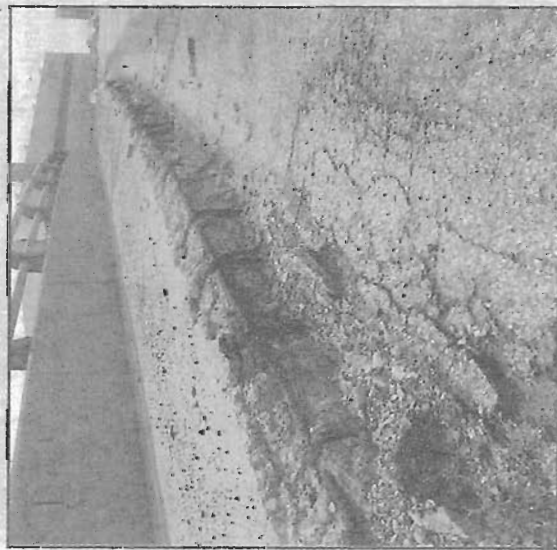
City crews, however, will do some patch work and occasionally sweep up the concrete debris.



Who can fix it

Nancy Burton, spokeswoman for the Ohio Department of Transportation, 740-833-8063

The city's service number is 311 or 614-645-3111; Mary Carran Webster, assistant director of public service, 614-645-7263



JIM WOODS | DISPATCH

Reinforcing rods are visible where the concrete curb has worn away on the 4th Street bridge.