



## No<sup>104</sup> movement yet on possible street extension

By Josh Mitchell

Staff reporter

Extending Loucks Street through the old Central Middle School site to Sheridan Avenue would create a new east/west corridor for the city, but the proposed project has only entered informal discussion.

The Central Middle School site is owned by local foundation Whitney Benefits Inc., whose director, Tom Kinnison, says the city is not "knocking down the door to talk with us" about the project.

Kinnison said Whitney has been in "informal" discussions with the city for at least 10 months and is "waiting to hear back" about formal discussions.

Mayor Dave Kinsky said he asked city staff to work out details such as whether traffic lights and turn lanes would be needed.

Kinsky said he does not think the project will begin during the construction season this spring.

He said city engineers are "running behind," and he does not know when the project would possibly start.

He said he has spoken with some residents who oppose the Loucks Street extension because of possible increases in traffic.

Kinnison said "a lot of people think (the extension) is a good idea."

Kinnison said he does not know if Whitney would charge the city to put a road through the property, but he noted the land and the school demolition cost Whitney "a lot of money."

"We'll talk about it (cost)," Kinnison said.

Kinnison said Whitney is interested in allowing Loucks Street to go through the property because Whitney wants to do something good for the community.



Extending Loucks Street through the old Central Middle School site to Sheridan Avenue to create a new east/west passageway is being informally discussed between the city and Whitney Benefits Inc.