



CITY OF TOPEKA

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

CITY COUNCIL
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Date: March 27, 2024

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Location: 1st Floor Conference Room; Cyrus K. Holliday Building 620 SE Madison
(*virtual attendance option also available*)

Committee members present: Council members Sylvia Ortiz, David Banks, and Neil Dobler

City staff present: Public Works Director Braxton Copley, Planning & Development Director Rhiannon Friedman, Utilities Director Sylvia Davis, Councilman Spencer Duncan; Public Works/Engineering: Deputy Director Jason Tryon, Deputy Director Tony Trower, Interim Engineer Mark Schreiner, Todd Workman, Lee Holms, Robert Bidwell, Brian Bigenwalt; Planning & Development: Taylor Ricketts Utilities Kris Wagers Legal Bonnie Williams; Finance: Glenn Roth, Dawn Lacy

Call to Order

Chairwoman Ortiz called the meeting to order at 11:00am. Committee members introduced themselves.

Approval of February 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Committee member Dobler made a motion to approve the February 20, 2024 meeting minutes. Committee member Banks seconded. Motion approved 3-0-0.

Presentation: Safe Routes to School

Transportation Planner Taylor Ricketts provided a presentation on the Safe Routes to School. The plan was created in conjunction with the City's consultant.

Highlights:

- This was a study of all of the USD 501 elementary schools (14).
- Goals include:
 - Increasing the number of youth bicycling/walking/carpooling and taking the bus or public transportation to and from school.
 - Increasing the school travel safety for all modes, with a focus on walking and biking needs.
 - Ensure multimodal transportation access for students and families of all ages, abilities and backgrounds, paying particular attention to the vulnerable, underserved and minority communities.

1 - Public Works Infrastructure Committee

Minutes Taken: March 27, 2024

Minutes Approved: April 16, 2024

- Increase awareness of how SRTS infrastructure and programming can be effective ways to address the above issues.
- The planning process included holding meetings between the City, MTPO, and USD 501 representatives; outreach calls to each principal; data collection; parent surveys; student travel tallies; observations during arrival/dismissal at each school; and walking audits of school neighborhoods within a half-mile of each school.
- Safety and mobility considerations, and segment issue recommendations were made. This would look like identifying missing sidewalks, missing ADA ramps, crosswalks, etc.
- The caregiver surveys included questions as to why the caregiver would not allow children to walk to school, their current mode, etc.
- After the survey results came in, background information was collected for each school. This included implementation priorities, funding policies, programming priorities. And that information was split into short-term goals and long-term goals.
- Cost estimates associated with each of the spots that were identified as priority areas were provided, which helps for applying for grants and other funding. The neighborhoods could use this information to apply for DREAMS grants, which are offered through the City.

Ms. Ricketts noted the final document has been approved by the MTPO policy board, however staff is waiting on some final cost estimates for each of the spot segments. Once those are received, the information will be presented to the Governing Body and public.

Questions/Comments:

- Chairwoman Ortiz inquired about the schools that have been closed, or schools that are going to be closed in future years, and if there would be a way to shift funding or resources to other schools, if one should close? Ms. Ricketts stated the plan would work with the School District to communicate if there were plans to close schools. The plan could be modified accordingly and could put resources toward the other schools where children would be being transferred to.
- Committee member Banks inquired about how the determinations were made for which schools needed sidewalks, signals, or crosswalks? Ms. Ricketts stated the Consultants conducted in-field assessments, to include walking, and documented everything that was missing, damaged, or was needed. So each school has its own list. The priority of schools was based on reviewing the areas where there were more disadvantaged children and families.
- Committee member Banks inquired if Ross Elementary and Eisenhower Middle school meet with the consultants, and if they were involved with the planning process? Ms. Ricketts confirmed that all 14 Of the elementary schools were part of the process.
- Committee member Dobler inquired about how short-term and long-term goals are measured? Ms. Ricketts stated measurements included reviewing the

number of students who walk/bike to school daily. Ms. Ricketts stated that spreading awareness to students and their families about these options, might help to raise the number. Additional ways to increase awareness would be to get into the school curriculums, teaching kids how to ride bikes.

- Committee member Dobler inquired if there was a success tracking mechanism in place, since this program has been in place for a while? Ms. Ricketts acknowledged that the program had been in place for some time, but that there had not been much of an effort to increase awareness or address the infrastructure issues. For the SRTS to work, these things need to be implemented. The hope is that providing this plan will help push out the policies and increase infrastructure.

2024 CIP Projects Exceeding \$250K

Director Copley walked the Committee through the following five items, all of which fall under the 2024 CIP Projects that exceed \$250,000 and require approval by the Committee and Governing Body.

Street Contract Preventative Maintenance - NW Quadrant

At the February meeting, Director Copley sought approval for an amendment to the Street Contracted Maintenance Program, to expand that program by an additional \$1M. These first two items are providing information for specific projects within that Street Contracted Maintenance Program.

The first item is a request to move forward with the micro-surfacing project, which for 2024, will be in the Northwest quadrant of Topeka. The City has been divided into four quadrants. Topeka Boulevard delineates North and South. This project will take place North of 21st Street and West of Topeka Boulevard, with a project cost request at \$1.5M

Committee member Dobler made a motion to approve. Committee member Banks seconded. Motion approved 3-0-0.

Ultrathin Bonded Asphalt Surface

This project is also under the Street Maintenance Program. This is \$1M for the Ultrathin Bonded Asphalt Surface (UBAS). The specific streets that are being targeted will be 6th Street, from MacVicar to Monroe. And then on Monroe and Madison from 6th Street to 10th Avenue. The goal is to have this completed within 2024, as there is an expectation of heavy traffic occurring in 2025 as street closures and detours are expected at 1-70 & MacVicar for the Polk-Quincy Viaduct project.

Committee member Dobler inquired if traffic counts would be conducted through the duration of the detours, as that information could provide great data to test this surfacing application? Director Copley felt this was a great suggestion, and confirmed they would do that. He noted the hired consultant did a model, in terms of what the projected traffic counts are on 6th and MacVicar, but getting counters on the street will provide that hard data.

Committee member Banks made a motion to approve. Committee member Dobler seconded. Motion approved 3-0-0.

Hi-Crest Neighborhood Street Maintenance

This project is seeking approval to put out to bid. It is for street maintenance and utilities projects within the Hi-Crest neighborhood. There is a total of \$6.5M. The project will be broken down into two phases.

The first phase in 2024 will be the area of Hi-Crest bounded by Golf Park on the North side and 37th Street to the South, and Adams on the East. That large area will have some full-depth patching, storm water work, curbing and gutter work and then the whole area will be milled & overlaid.

In 2025, the project area is a little to the North. It is bounded by Golf Park on the South, 31st Street on the North and Adams on the East. That project will include some water main relocation and replacement, as well as a complete reconstruction to 21st Street, which was approved as part of the DREAMS funding that was allocated by the Citizens Advisory Council (CAC). The DREAMS project will also fund the reconstruction to 31st Street but will also include sidewalk and storm water work along. And then a mill & overlay on all of the streets between Adams and Irvingham.

Chairwoman Ortiz inquired if some of the funding was from the old SORT grant funding? Director Copley responded it was not, but rather was specifically a DREAMS application for the DREAMS 2 additional work that could not be covered by the half-cent sales-tax on 31st Street.

Committee member Banks made a motion to approve. Committee member Dobler seconded. Motion approved 3-0-0.

Reconstruction of Intersection with Water line Replacement - 21st Street & Topeka Blvd

This project was previously discussed in concept, but the request today is to receive approval to authorize staff to put it out to bid.

The project cost is \$2.6M and will include a complete reconstruction of the intersection at 21st Street and Topeka. It will be done in concrete. There will also be a replacement of the water line that crosses Topeka Boulevard at 21st Street, and will also continue the replacement of it up to Kansas Avenue, where the waterline had been replaced with the Kansas Avenue project.

Chairwoman Ortiz inquired about the timeline and asked when the street would be shut down? Director Copley stated it would likely be August 2024 until the end of the construction season. It will require a full closure of the intersection. The reason for choosing August is because the water line is still experiencing issues, in terms of the brass parts for the corpse and tapping saddles. The valves are becoming

more readily available, but it is still eight to nine months out before they will arrive. Utilities staff did place the order, but August will be the earliest that staff will have the items in hand.

Committee member Dobler made a motion to approve. Committee member Banks seconded. Motion approved 3-0-0.

Street Improvement and Water line Replacement - SW Topeka Blvd; 21st - 29th Street
This project will be largely mill & overlay with full-depth patching as needed. The goal is to get this into construction in June. It would include a full closure of the intersection at 29th Street at Topeka Boulevard. The Utilities Department is partnering on this project to replace the water line from 23rd Street to 27th Street. It will likely take the full construction season. The plan would be to do a full closure of the intersection at 29th and Topeka Boulevard, so that the mill & overlay can be completed. That will take about a week before it could be opened back up. From there, the project would move north. Ideally the two south-bound lanes would be completed in the first phase. Because the new water line will be going under the inside northbound lane, that would be left until phase two. Hopefully by the time the project progresses to that point, the parts and pieces needed for the project will arrive.

Chairwoman Ortiz inquired if there would be one lane of travel allowed? Director Copley confirmed that it would be the plan, with the exception that there may be a full closure at 27th and Topeka Boulevard to 29th Street if it would allow for the project to be completed sooner, which would also save on costs.

Committee member Dobler made a motion to approve. Committee member Banks seconded. Motion approved 3-0-0.

Other Items

Utilities Director Sylvia Davis provided an update to the utility relocation projects that are occurring in anticipation of the Polk-Quincy Viaduct project number 3. Crews are currently installing some large, reinforced concrete pipe to address some storm water issues. KDOT is also getting their finalized storm water plans for the project to the City. These may have some impact on some of the work the City is doing, but overall things are going really well. "Notices to Proceed" have been issued for all five projects to their contractors. The project and detour information for all of the projects are being kept up-to-date on the website.
[<https://www.topeka.org/utilities/pqv/#gsc.tab=0>]

Chairwoman Ortiz asked staff from the Public Works Department to stand, and asked for applause to thank them for their responsiveness and work that they are doing to address the street problems.

Adjourn

Chairwoman Ortiz adjourned the meeting at 11:32am.

This meeting can be viewed online at:

https://youtu.be/2HEWoUFaceg?si=jtvh0_nmEcoeHeAU