



# CITY OF TOPEKA

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES

## PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

CITY COUNCIL  
City Hall, 215 SE 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 255  
Topeka, KS 66603-3914  
Tel: 785-368-3710  
Fax: 785-368-3958  
www.topeka.org

Date: April 16, 2024

Time: 11:00 a.m.

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

**Committee members present:** Council members Sylvia Ortiz (Chair), David Banks, and Neil Dobler

**City staff present:** Interim City Manager Richard U. Nienstedt, Public Works Director Braxton Copley, Planning & Development Director Rhiannon Friedman, Utilities Director Sylvia Davis, Public Works/Engineering: Deputy Director Jason Tryon, Deputy Director Tony Trower, Interim Engineer Mark Schreiner, Lee Holmes, Robert Bidwell, Brian Bigenwalt; Utilities Kris Wagers Legal Mathew Mullens

### Call to Order

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

### Approval of March 27, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Committee member Banks made a motion to approve the March 27, 2024 meeting minutes. Committee member Dobler seconded. Motion approved 3-0-0.

### 2024 KDOT Transportation Alternatives Grant - Bikeways Phase V Resolution

Public Works Director Braxton Copley and Planning & Development Services Director Rhiannon Friedman presented information on a Resolution related to the 2024 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Grant. Staff is seeking approval from the Committee and Governing Body to proceed with sending a submission in for the Transportation Alternatives (TA) grant program. The application will be for \$1.86M. It will allow the City to complete three of the projects that were included in the most recent Bikeways Phase V program, which was approved by the MTPO. The specific projects include:

- Adams Street, from 1<sup>st</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> Street
- 4<sup>th</sup> Street, from Washburn to Kansas Ave
- 5<sup>th</sup> Street, in the area where Washburn meets up with 4<sup>th</sup> Street

Director Copley mentioned that these grants are typically an 80/20 award, where the grant would cover 80% and the City would be responsible for the remaining 20% of funding. However, the City is eligible for Federal funding through the Highway

Safety Improvement Program. This would potentially pick up the remaining 20% meaning the City could possibly get the grant for \$1.86M, and would only be responsible to cover any costs that KDOT deemed as non-participating.

Chairwoman Ortiz inquired if having streets closed due to the Polk-Quincy Viaduct project would impact this project? Director Copley stated, if the grant were awarded, the first step would be to have a consultant come out to survey and begin design work. Staff would be mindful of the construction projects related to the Polk-Quincy Viaduct. He stated that although the area currently has heavy construction projects occurring, he felt there would be much lesser impact once this process moves to the actual construction phase.

MOTION: Committee member Banks made a motion to approve the Resolution to apply for the TA Grant. Committee member Dobler seconded. Motion approved 3-0-0.

### **2024 CIP Projects Exceeding \$250K**

#### Curtis Flyoff

Director Copley introduced a project for the reconstruction of Curtis, from the Flyoff to Monroe Street. This area is by the grain elevator, and Staff has worked closely with the grain elevator in terms of the design phase of the project to reduce the impact of operations, and have worked out a way to complete the project outside of their busiest season, which is the Fall harvest. Prior to Fall harvest, a mill & overlay will be completed on the Flyoff. This was a project under \$200K, and did not require approval by the Governing Body. The remainder of the project would occur after the harvest, to include utility relocation and water line replacement. Then, in the Spring of 2025, once the asphalt plants reopen, work will begin on the road reconstruction; which would go from Curtis, past the Topeka Rescue Mission, to where the rest of Curtis is at. A gravel service road will be constructed to allow traffic during the project. This project includes \$2M in street work, \$600K of waterline replacement and about \$200K of storm water work.

Chairwoman Ortiz inquired if the funding source would be the City-wide ½ cent sales tax? Director Copley confirmed that, for the street project portion, the ½ cent sales tax money would be used, as it is an existing road.

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

#### 29<sup>th</sup> Street - Adams to California

Director Copley introduced a project which staff is seeking approval for. The total project cost is \$1.7M and includes \$1.1M for street, in which city-wide half-cent sales tax funding will be used. It will be a mill & overlay with full-depth patching as necessary. There will be some water line work that will be about \$45K. Two crossings need to be replaced. There will be about \$47K of storm water and \$125K of sanitary sewer repair.

Committee member Banks expressed gratitude for having this project move forward, noting it has been long-needed.

MOTION: Committee member Banks made a motion to approve the project and to move it forward to the Governing Body for action. Committee member Dobler seconded. Motion approved 3-0-0.

### **FIRM Project Memo**

Public Works Deputy Director Jason Tryon provided an informational update about two additional upgrades to projects that fall under the Facilities Improvements, Repair and Maintenance (FIRM) program.

The FIRM program has been pulled out of the CIP, and is now funded through the Operating Budget, staff takes providing updates to the Governing Body members seriously in order to provide detailed information about the project and the use of dollars.

Two projects were presented:

- Additional upgrades to the fire fleet facility. The current testing apparatus can only handle a 1,500 gallons per minute test. There is some equipment that we have that can go up to 2,000 gallons per minute, so there is a need to add an additional hose hookup, as well as ensure there is adequate piping to the testing apparatus. The cost associated will allow for testing the new fire trucks up to that 2,000 gallons per minute so they are able to remain certified.
- The second item is a stage lift at Topeka Performing Arts Center (TPAC). The lift allows them to set the stages and move product from the loading dock onto the stage area. There was some water infiltration into the hydraulic lines and they will need to be completely drained and refilled in order to continue operation of the lift.

Chairwoman Ortiz inquired about the age of the lift. Deputy Director Tryon did not know the answer off-hand, but would find out and provide the committee with the information.

### **Other Items**

Rory Kent Jr., Executive Director for TPAC provided some information about the hydraulic lift project at TPAC. He stated it as indigenous to the building, from its time as the Municipal Auditorium. It has been used for car shows, and circus elephants.

### **Adjourn**

Chairwoman Ortiz adjourned the meeting at 11:11am.

This meeting can be viewed online at: <https://youtu.be/0XILpLqwKuM>