



# CITY OF TOPEKA

## CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

### PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

CITY COUNCIL  
City Hall, 215 SE 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 255  
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Date: November 19, 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:** Councilmembers Sylvia Ortiz (Chair), Neil Dobler and David Banks.

**City staff present:** City Manager Robert M. Perez, Assistant City Manager Braxton Copley, Senior Attorney Brandy Roy-Bachman, Utilities Director Sylvia Davis, Planning and Development Services Director Rhiannon Friedman, Public Works Deputy Director Jason Tryon, Mark Schreiner, Travis Lathrop, Mark Bidwell, Tony Trower, Todd Workman

**Council staff present:** Councilmembers Christina Valdivia-Alcalá, Marcus Miller and Michelle Hoferer.

### Call to Order

Committee Chair Ortiz called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

### Approval of October 15, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Committee member Banks made a motion to approve the October 15, 2024 Special Meeting minutes. Committee member Ortiz seconded. Motion approved 3-0-0.

### CIP Funding Source Amendments

Budget & Finance Division Director Josh McAnarney spoke to the proposed changes to the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Funding Source Amendments.

- **2023 CIP:** Amend the funding source for project 241078 – 2023 Infill Sidewalk Program from GO Bonds to Federal Funds Exchange (FFE) for \$600,000.
- **2024 CIP:** Amend the funding source for project 141036 – 2024 Traffic Signals Program from a split of \$400,000 FFE and \$800,000 GO Bonds to fully Federal Funds Exchange funded for a total of \$1,200,000.
- **2024 CIP:** Amend the funding source for project 601160 – Neighborhood Infrastructure (DREAMS 1) from \$1,500,000 of general fund cash to \$750,000 of Citywide Half-Cent Sales Tax and \$750,000 of Cash. Project total is not changing.

- **2025 CIP:** Amend the funding source for project 131088 – Facilities Improvement, Repair, and Maintenance Program (FIRM) from Cash to GO Bonds for \$2,300,000.

Committee member Dobler thanked the Finance Department and Josh McAnarney for all their work.

MOTION: Committee member Banks made a motion to approve the proposed changes to the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Funding Source Amendments. Committee member Dobler seconded. Approved 3-0-0.

### **FIRM Repair Update**

Public Works Deputy Director Jason Tryon provided an overview of the projects that are being recommended for the 2025 Facility Improvements, Repair and Maintenance (FIRM) program. The projects were identified in previous assessments conducted on all city buildings, and in coordination with the facilities division to identify the most urgent needs.

Committee member Banks inquired about Topeka Fire Station 9 renovation project. Public Works Deputy Director Jason Tryon stated that the funds are from 2024 funding.

Council member Michelle Hoferer questioned how a project is prioritized to be in the FIRM program. Public Works Deputy Director Jason Tryon Look responded that needs are reviewed based on items needing updates or have ongoing repairs. He added that the Governing Body has final approval of the projects in the FIRM program.

Committee chair Ortiz, Council members Michelle Hoferer and Christina Valdivia-Alcalá inquired about the lighting, sidewalks, handrails and the potential risks of safety outside the Topeka Performing Arts Center (TPAC) area which is also the entrance for the Council Chambers at 214 E 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Public Works Deputy Director Jason Tryon stated that there is temporary lighting currently installed. He added the 2025 Facilities Improvement project will include the TPAC area new concrete steps, exterior LED lighting, handrails, south entry sidewalk panels, and a Americans with Disability Act (ADA) ramp on the east side.

MOTION: Committee member Dobler made a motion to approve the proposed changes to the 2025 Facility Improvements, Repair and Maintenance (FIRM) program and proceed to the Governing Body meeting. Committee member Banks seconded. Approved 3-0-0.

### **Presentation: SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. & SW 5<sup>th</sup> from Topeka to Kansas -Safety Review**

Assistant City Manager Braxton Copley spoke to the traffic study results from WSP engineers. The study provided recommendations to improve the overall safety at SW 4<sup>th</sup>, SW 5<sup>th</sup> and Adam Street. He added to fund improvements there has been a

grant totaling \$1.9 million; of that \$1.7 million is from KDOT funding and \$200,000 from City of Topeka matching share funds.

#### Study Area

- Analysis period: 2019 – July 2024 (5.6 years), Length of each corridor: 0.34 miles. Roadway types: Two/Three lane One-Way Major Collectors.
- SW 4th Ave.: One-way westbound. 61 (+/-) crashes –2 head-on collisions resulting in 2 injuries. ADT: 1,900 vpd (Replica data) -Street is way over capacity.
- SW 5th St.: One-way eastbound. 37 (+/-) crashes –1 head-on collision (PDO). ADT: 1,200 vpd (Replica data) -Street is way over capacity.

#### Crash Analysis

- Crash Analysis: Statewide Average 192.524 crashes per 100 Million-Vehicle Miles (MVM).
- 4th Avenue: Critical Crash Rate: 215.70 crashes/100 MVM. Calculated Crash Rate: 3,029.33 crashes per 100 MVM. The crash rate is 14.04 times higher than the critical crash rate.
- 5th Street: Critical Crash Rate: 221.71 crashes per 100 MVM. Calculated Crash Rate: 3,837.15 crashes per 100 MVM. The crash rate is 17.31 times higher than the critical crash rate.

Assistant City Manager Braxton Copley spoke to the signage and pavement marking plan of the studied area to help address where vehicles can turn. He indicated that through the Bikeways Master Plan Grant assistance there would be an overlay treatment, bike lanes, bulb-outs also included to help the area road safety.

Assistant City Manager Braxton Copley thanked Committee Chair Sylvia Ortiz for bringing up the need for the study.

Committee chair Sylvia Ortiz spoke to the dangerous area of the streets at SW 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at Van Buren Street. She thanked Braxton Copley and staff for all their work on the study.

Councilmember Christina Valdivia-Alcalá spoke to the bulb-outs in the Seward Avenue area. She added her appreciation for the efforts done on the water drainage concerns on Seward Avenue.

Assistant City Manager Braxton Copley acknowledged learning from the Seward Avenue project that the bulb-outs were undersized in design, and did not meet code requirements.

Councilmember Michelle Hoferer spoke to the area at SW 4<sup>th</sup> Street and SW Topeka Boulevard and the concern that is a busy intersection. She does not support a one lane area. She also questioned the parking along SW 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Topeka Boulevard and added her concern for the businesses and their client parking.

Assistant City Manager Braxton Copley responded that currently there are only concept plans and there is no contract with KDOT for the area. He added that there are public engagement discussions on traffic plans with businesses.

Adjourned 11: 39 a.m.

This meeting can be viewed online at: <https://youtu.be/37Hnt1t01cE>