



# 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: January 31, 2025

Time: 9:00 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.  
Absent: 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 Director Steve Groen Steve, Public Works Deputy Director Jason Tryon, Mark Schreiner, Travis Lathrop, Mark Bidwell, Tony Trower, Todd Workman

**Council staff present:** Councilmembers Michelle Hoferer and Marcus Miller.

#### Call to Order

Committee chair Ortiz called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

Committee chair Ortiz thanked Assistant City Manager Braxton Copley, Public Works Director Steve Groen and the entire staff of the Street Department for all their work during the recent snow.

City Manager Robert M. Perez and Public Works Director Steve Groen Steve acknowledged the staff for job well done as well expressing appreciation to the Public and Governing Body for the support.

#### Election of 2025 Committee Chair

MOTION: Committee member Dobler made a motion to move the Election of the 2025 Committee Chair to the next meeting. Committee chair Ortiz seconded. Motion approved 2-0-0.

#### Approval of November 19, 2024 Meeting Minutes and November 22, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes

Committee member Dobler made a motion to approve the November 19, 2024 and November 22, 2024 Special Meeting minutes. Committee member Ortiz seconded. Motion approved 2-0-0.

**Amendment: 2026 Topeka Performing Arts (TPAC) Building Improvements Project No. 861411.00**

Public Works Deputy Director Jason Tryon spoke to the proposal. The design cost for 2024 was previously approved for up to \$100,000. With the proposal it would move spending from 2026 and a portion of 2027 into 2025 to complete. Basement upgrades for the Hill's Room including updated lighting, speakers and a wall control. The First-Floor upgrades in the Promenade Hall, increased vendor opportunities and service bar in the Fleming Room plus upgrades in the VIP area. He stated that with the current construction going on and areas exposed it gives the opportunity for the improvements to happen this year. The timeline will add 2-3 months, with completion in the fall 2025.

Dan Kays, Executive Director of Topeka Performing Arts (TPAC), spoke to the importance of bringing in programming to the venue. He emphasized the importance of modernizing areas throughout TPAC to allow for continued growth for clients and make the area useful. He stated that the opportunity to enhance the upgrades is now considering the current stage of the renovation.

MOTION: Committee chair Ortiz made a motion to approve. Committee member Dobler seconded. Motion approved 2-0-0.

**2025 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Projects Exceeding \$250K:**

**SW 21<sup>st</sup> and Belle Ave Traffic Signal Replacement Project No. 141037.03**

Public Works Director Steve Groen spoke to Traffic Signal Replacement Program which provides the replacement of traffic signals located throughout the City of Topeka. This particular traffic light was constructed in 1984. The funding source is GO Bonds with a final estimate at \$528,475.

Committee member Dobler inquired about the traffic flow on 21<sup>st</sup> Road. Project Manager Joe Harrington confirmed that there is InSync Adaptive Traffic Control system used from Fairlawn Rd to Wanamaker Rd.

MOTION: Committee member Dobler made a motion to approve. Committee chair Ortiz seconded. Motion approved 2-0-0.

**SW Fairlawn Rd: 23<sup>rd</sup> St to 28<sup>th</sup> St Pavement Rehabilitation Project No. 701040.00, No. 281250.17 (water), No. 291143.04 (sanitary), No. 502730.00 (storm), No. 502730.01 (storm)**

Public Works Director Steve Groen spoke to the Pavement Rehabilitation project at SW Fairlawn Rd from 23<sup>rd</sup> Street to 28<sup>th</sup> Street. The citywide half-cent funding will be used to replace existing pavement and the general obligation bond funding will be used for road widening and signals. The project also will include water line relocation funded under 281250.17-Water Main Replacement Program, sanitary sewer work funded under 291143.04-Wastewater Lining & Replacement Program. In addition to stormwater work funded under 502730.00 and 502730.01 Stormwater Conveyance System Rehabilitation and Replacement Program Water, sanitary, and stormwater programs will leverage operating funds and revenue bonds.

Councilmember Hoferer inquired on timeframe of the project. Public Works Director Steve Groen stated that it will begin this year and is a 2-year project. Assistant City Manager Braxton Copley stated there was a Public Engagement session. He then added after it goes to bid it would be 2-3 months to start construction.

MOTION: Committee member Dobler made a motion to approve. Committee chair Ortiz seconded. Motion approved 2-0-0.

**SW Harrison St: 10<sup>th</sup> Ave to 8<sup>th</sup> Ave Pavement Rehabilitation Project No. 841098.01**

Public Works Director Steve Groen spoke to the project consisting of pavement rehabilitation funded under the Pavement Management Program. Pavement reconstruction costs for the 900 block segment will be covered by the State of Kansas, and mill and overlay on the 800 block segment will be covered by the City of Topeka. He added it is the hope that this project can be completed by the time the Docking State Office Building reopens on June 1, 2025.

MOTION: Committee member Dobler made a motion to approve. Committee chair Ortiz seconded. Motion approved 2-0-0.

**2025 Micro Surfacing Project No. 841104.01**

Public Works Director Steve Groen stated the project is part of the 2025 Street Contract Preventative Maintenance Program, which will be performed in the southwest quadrant of the City from SW 21<sup>st</sup> Street south to the south city limits and from SW Topeka Boulevard west to the west city limits. He added the project is funded by the Citywide Half-Cent Sales tax with the final estimate being at \$1,209,923.

MOTION: Committee member Dobler made a motion to approve. Committee chair Ortiz seconded. Motion approved 2-0-0.

**2025 UBAS Project No. 841104.02**

Public Works Director Steve Groen provided information on the project consisting of Ultrathin Bonded Asphalt Surface (UBAS) treatment to the following segments: NE

Quincy from Laurent to Morse, SE Branner from I-70 to 10<sup>th</sup> Ave, NE Seward from Forest to Rice, SE 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Branner to Golden, SE California from I-70 to 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and NE Strait from Seward to Sardou. He stated the project funding source is the Citywide Half-Cent Sales Tax fund.

Assistant City Manager Braxton Copley confirmed that this project will not be at SE 6<sup>th</sup> Street and SE Golden Avenue. Currently, the area is in the design phase for a separate project.

Committee chair Ortiz expressed her thoughts that the intersection at SE 6<sup>th</sup> Street and SE Golden has been waiting for years for repair and continues to be a concern for constituents.

Committee member Dobler questioned the status of the balance for the Citywide Half-Cent Sales tax. Assistant City Manager Braxton Copley stated he will get the balance from the Finance Department. He added when he took the position of Public Works Director there was a surplus of \$17million sitting in the Citywide Half-Cent Sales Tax fund. He noted the Department continues to strategize and has increased funding.

MOTION: Committee member Dobler made a motion to approve. Committee chair Ortiz seconded. Motion approved 2-0-0

#### **2025 Crack Sealing Project No. 841104.03**

Public Works Director Steve Groen stated that the project is part of the 2025 Street Contract Preventative Maintenance Program and is funded through the Citywide Half-Cent Sales Tax with a final cost estimated at \$522,000. The project will be from SW 21<sup>st</sup> Street south to the south city limits and from SW Topeka Boulevard east to the east city limits.

MOTION: Committee member Dobler made a motion to approve. Committee chair Ortiz seconded. Motion approved 2-0-0.

#### **2023 Bridge Maintenance Program Project No. 121019.00**

Public Works Director Steve Groen provided information on the Bridge Maintenance Program. He added the scope of the work includes expansion joint replacements, concrete bridge approach replacements, and concrete roadway panel replacements. The work extends from NE 3<sup>rd</sup> and NE Branner to approximately 200 feet north of the intersection of NE Branner and NE Atchison Ave.

City Engineer Mark Schreiner confirmed there will be two bridges impacted with full closer for the project.

Committee Chair Ortiz added it is much needed and supports the project.

MOTION: Committee member Dobler made a motion to approve. Committee chair Ortiz seconded. Motion approved 2-0-0.

### **Branner Street Trafficway Bridge Repair (No. E12A) Project No. 121019.04**

Public Works Director Steve Groen stated the project will do repairs on the Branner Street Trafficway Bridge (No. E12A), funded under the Bridge Maintenance Program. Repairs will include concrete roadway, the approach panel replacements, deck patching, and expansion joint replacements.

Committee Chair Ortiz expressed her support for the project.

MOTION: Committee member Dobler made a motion to approve. Committee chair Ortiz seconded. Motion approved 2-0-0.

### **Polk-Quincy-Viaduct (PQV) Project Update**

Utilities Director Sylvia Davis, provided a recap and update on the Polk-Quincy-Viaduct (PQV) project for the City of Topeka.

- Started in October 2023 with nearly all projects completed; 7,000+ feet of sanitary sewer, 2,600+ feet of storm sewer, 6,000+ feet of water line, and 12,600 yards of pavement.
- Projects 2 and 7 were completed by the end of 2024 and were under budget.
- Project 3, 4 and 6 were completed early January 2025; final cost is projected to be at or below budget.
- Project 5 is still ongoing, with curb, gutter, sidewalk work on Kansas Avenue; slated to be completed by February 10, 2025. Traffic is open on Kansas Avenue but is now impacted as KDOT begins their storm sewer installation.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Street remains closed for sanitary sewer work and will take approximately 5-8 more weeks.

Utilities Director Sylvia Davis continued to thank the public and the City Council for their patience through the projects. She acknowledged with the coordination efforts of the City of Topeka project managers, engineers, and consultants the timeframe and budget has gone very well. She thanked the City of Topeka's communication and Information Technology (IT) team for their part in giving social media and website updates. She continued to give special thanks to Senior Engineer Michelle Neiswender for her hard work on the PQV project.

Councilmember Michelle Hoferer expressed that she is pleased with the projects near completion of utility projects. She spoke to her concern that the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) next phase will begin February 10, 2025. Additional roads will be torn up, creating road closures and detours. She conveyed her disappointment with the communication efforts of the upcoming changes that will be happening with the downtown construction. She also noted an instance of a

funeral procession and drivers might not know the road closures. She will be attending a meeting with NOTO Arts & Entertainment District and requested staff help to assist to explain how drivers will maneuver the road issues to not complicate issues for businesses. She thanked the staff in advance of any help there could be done to let the public be aware of road closures.

Assistant City Manager Braxton Copley confirmed the sign on I-70 Exit 361A-1<sup>st</sup> Avenue stating “vehicles over 26,000 lbs are prohibited” was posted by KDOT to help let drivers know that driving in residential areas are not allowed with that vehicle weight.

Committee Chair Ortiz emphasized the importance of communication to the public about road closers. She also gave a welcome to new Public Works Director Steve Groen. He expressed his thanks and stated he is looking forward to working with the Public Infrastructure Committee and the Governing Body.

Adjourned 9:43 a.m.

This meeting can be viewed online at: <https://youtu.be/iCb0-OCpY4U>