



# 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: March 18, 2025

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, David Banks (Chair), Neil Dobler.

**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, Public Works Deputy Director Jason Tryon, Mark Schreiner

**Council staff present:** Councilmembers Michelle Hoferer.

#### Call to Order

Committee chair Banks called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

#### Approval of February 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Committee member Dobler made a motion to approve the January 31, 2025 meeting minutes. Committee member Ortiz seconded. Motion approved 3-0-0.

#### Presentation Pothole Report

Public Works Director Steve Groen provided information on the Pothole Program.

- 1,600 lane miles of streets, 1,057 lane mile of alleys, 101 bridges, 51 employees, 2 patch trucks, 4 hotbox trailers, up to 7 winter patch crews, 2-6 crews in the summer
- The biggest contributor to potholes is when water seeps through the pavement and freezes, then following traffic impact the surface breaks down
- Funding Includes: 2025 Pavement Management Program is funded by Citywide Half-Cent Tax bringing in \$11,050,000. Preventative Maintenance Projects include (1) Micro Surfacing \$1,209,923 (2) Ultrathin Bonded Asphalt Surface (UBAS) \$947,573 (3) Crack Sealing \$522,000
- Pavement Conditions Index (PCI): 2016-54.8, 2019-61.8, 2022-67.7. He added there will be consulting completed in 2025 for a new PCI score.
- Biggest issue being able to use hot-mix asphalt when there are weather elements
- Annual Statistics Summary: SeeClickFix reports and reported calls, potholes filled are slightly behind for 2025 due to amount of snow

Committee member Neil Dobler asked the amount of Citywide Half-Cent Tax.

Assistant City Manager Braxton Copley confirmed 19 million. He also confirmed 11 million is for Pavement Management Program (reconstruction, mill and overlay projects) and 4 million is Preventative Maintenance Projects (UBAS, Micro Surfacing, Crack Sealing). Additionally, Copley added for 2026 Public Works will propose the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to go to 14 million.

Committee member Ortiz questioned when constituents are reporting street issues how do they know if a street belongs to the City of Topeka. Public Works Director Steve Groen stated that when maintenance issues are brought to the attention of Public Works, it is reviewed, and if it does not belong to the City it is forwarded onto the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) or Shawnee County.

Committee chair Banks thanked Assistant City Manager Braxton Copley and Public Works Director Steve Groen for the presentation.

### **Presentation Complete Streets**

Assistant City Manager Braxton Copley spoke to the Metropolitan Topeka Planning Organization (MTPO) vision statement to create a balanced, safe and reliable network of facilities that offers convenience, connections, and access for all users of the system including motorists, freight drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists and transit riders of all ages and abilities. He provided a summary of the 2009 Resolution No. 8222 and spoke to the importance of providing a financially feasible safe access for all users, ages and abilities while also including nonmotorized plans.

#### **Key Items:**

- Street Typology based on land use and character include: (1) Mixed Use Boulevard (2) Main Street (3) Neighborhood Residential (4) Industrial Street
- Sidewalk Design Components - Three Key Zones for Sidewalk design (1) Frontage Zone (2) Pedestrian Zone (3) Amenity Zone
- Bicycle Facility Selection-Speed limit, Traffic Volume and the appropriate facility
- Traffic Calming Measures-Speed cushions, speed humps, raised crosswalks, curb extensions, chicanes, traffic circles, neck downs
- Intersection Design-Key elements for safe intersections (1) Corners and curb radii (2) Curb ramps and extensions (3) Crossing islands (4) Crosswalk design (5) Signal timing for all users
- Implementation Priorities-Safety Fire, Network Connectivity, Context Sensitivity, Data Driven Decisions, Incremental Approach

Dan Warner Division Director of Planning spoke to the Downtown Master Plan. It was identified that a series of districts downtown received recommendations. The changes would create a more user-friendly pattern for lane conversions. He spoke to the significant changes at Jackson Street and Harrison Street -7<sup>th</sup> Street to 12 Street, creating two-way traffic, angled parking, sidewalks and pedestrian amenities. He

stated that all downtown projects are currently on hold until further traffic studies are completed and the Polk-Quincy Viaduct is completed.

Committee member Dobler questioned the maintenance, cost and liability of maintaining the bike and bus lanes. Assistant City Manager Braxton Copley will research the dollar figure and respond back. He added that typically bike and bus lanes need to be repainted to maintain them to be safe.

Council member Hoferer spoke to the optional intersection designs and asked about the effectiveness in projects. Assistant City Manager Braxton Copley spoke to the different design options relative to the particular project needs. He added there is consideration from the Fire Department to accommodate the equipment trucks.

Council member Ortiz asked about the education about the bike and bus lanes and making sure the public is aware of how they are used. Assistant City Manager Braxton Copley commented that it is an ongoing task to educate the public on the use of the lanes. He complimented the City of Topeka Communications Department for their video to outline the lane features.

Committee member Dobler stated that Complete Streets program has been going for 15 years he asked if the policies and guidelines are being kept to the national level. Assistant City Manager Braxton Copley spoke the changes that occur at the State and Federal levels and added the Public Works Department is continuing to improve and learn the new changes.

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

#### **45<sup>th</sup> Street Gage to Cambridge Project No. 701070.00**

Public Works Director Steve Groen announced the project will be amending the 2025-2034 CIP and the 2025-2027 CIB for street improvement and construction of a shared use path on 45<sup>th</sup> Street from Gage Boulevard to Cambridge Avenue. The utility relocation will take place in 2027, construction of the roadway will occur in 2028.

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

#### **Ward-Martin Creek Project. Nos. 501108.01, 501109.01, 501110.01**

Sylvia Davis Director of Utilities provided information on the project for repairs and replacement of Rip-Rap on the banks and channel bed of Ward-Martin Creek located on the eastern boarder of Washburn Park.

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

#### **1600 Block Between Polk and Tyler Project Nos. 841201.04 and 291147.01**

Public Works Director Steve Groen spoke to the project that will consist of removing and replacing concrete pavement. It will also include the replacement of the sanitary sewer due to the age and condition. Funded through the Citywide Half-Cent Sales Tax and the Wastewater Operating Fund, totaling \$448,868.

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

#### **SW Fairlawn Road 23rd Street to 28th Street Project No. 701040.00**

Public Works Director Steve Groen spoke to the project that will rehabilitate the stretch of SW Fairlawn Road from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> Street. The total project will be \$8,139,961 funded with Citywide Half-Cent Sales tax, GO Bonds, Federal Funds, Water, Stormwater, Sanitary Revenue Bonds and Operating Funds. He added the area between 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and 23<sup>rd</sup> Terrace will have a water main added.

Committee member Dobler spoke to the amount of the total project being nearly 8 million dollars for a half mile area.

Braxton Copley Assistant City Manager summarized that stormwater infrastructure, utilities, bridge repairs, mill and overlay plus a turning lane at 25<sup>th</sup> Street are the main benefit. He spoke to the existing corrugated metal pipe that is currently underneath the road and the emergency repairs that have taken place. He added that the timing of completing all the projects at the same time made sense.

Councilmember Hoferer spoke to the area at Fairlawn between 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and 28 Street and asked about the north end portion of the project. She also asked about corrugated metal pipe in the 21<sup>st</sup> Street area.

Braxton Copley Assistant City Manager confirmed the turning lane going into Dillon's at 5311 SW 22<sup>nd</sup> Street will be expanding and provide a safer area. He spoke to the corrugated metal pipe replacement for the project.

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

#### **Other:**

Committee member Ortiz inquired about the Shawnee county road at 2626 SE 29<sup>th</sup> Street. She is concerned about the safety, speed zone and asked if there had been a safety study of the area. Braxton Copley Assistant City Manager remarked that he will research and report back.

Adjourned 11:49 a.m.

This meeting can be viewed online at: <https://youtube.com/live/SCHARcc0o1k?feature=share>