



CITY OF TOPEKA

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

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

Date: June 17, 2025

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: Councilmember Sylvia Ortiz. Absent: David Banks (Chair) and Neil Dobler.

Council member present: Councilmember Michelle Hoferer (proxy member).

City staff present: City Manager Robert M. Perez, Deputy City Manager Braxton Copley, Assistant City Manager Avery Moore, Senior Attorney Mathew Mullen, Utilities Director Sylvia Davis, Public Works Director Steve Groen, Public Works Deputy Director Jason Tryon, City Engineer Mark Schreiner.

Call to Order

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

Approval of May 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Committee member by proxy Hoferer made a motion to approve the May 20, 2025 meeting minutes. Committee member Ortiz seconded. Motion approved 2-0-0.

Amendment to 2025-2034 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) and the 2025 -2027 Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) for Topeka Zoo Fiber Relocation Project No. 90080.00

Deputy City Manager Braxton Copley spoke to the proposed Amendment to 2025-2034 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) and the 2025-2027 Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) for the Topeka Zoo Fiber Relocation. He added the location of the project is located in the center of the zoo and currently has Bears in the exhibit. It will be a multiphase project for the "My World" expansion project. He stated that the Gage Park Improvement Authority has agreed to fund the project. Therefore, the City will advance the funds and will then be reimbursed from the Gage Park Improvement Authority. The net sum to the City is zero.

Committee member Hoferer stated she attended the Gage Park Improvement Authority meeting and expressed her support.

MOTION: Committee member by proxy Hoferer made a motion to approve and move

forward to the Governing Body for action. Committee member Ortiz seconded. Motion approved 2-0-0.

Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Project Exceeding \$250K: Historic Holliday Park Neighborhood DREAMS 1 Project No. 601160.02

Public Works Director Steve Groen spoke to the Historic Holliday Park Neighborhood DREAMS 1 Project consisting of mill and overlay with a full-depth patching. The funding source is GO Bonds and Stormwater Revenue Bonds and Operating Funds. He added the target construction date is to begin later in 2025.

Committee member Hoferer questioned about a Neighborhood meeting for the timeline. Public Works Director Groen responded when the contractor is selected a public meeting will be set to give a timeline.

Deputy City Manager Copley spoke to the project coming from the DREAMS process, which was approved and received support by the neighborhood.

Committee member Ortiz expressed her appreciation to the Neighborhood Improvement Association (NIA) and the public for the support of the project.

MOTION: Committee member Ortiz made a motion to approve and move forward to the Governing Body for action. Committee member by proxy Hoferer seconded. Motion approved 2-0-0.

Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Project Exceeding \$250K; Montara Northway Waterline Project Nos. 281300.03, 281301.03 and 281331.03

Utilities Director Sylvia Davis spoke to the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Project Exceeding \$250K for the Montara Northway Waterline Project. She added the water main replacement will have approximately 12,000 LF of pipe along Montara Northway from SW Crestwood Drive to SW Windwood Lane and along SW Windsong Drive. She continued to speak to that the water lines having a high break history and is a high business risk exposure. The project is expected to be two years.

Committee member Ortiz asked about the timeline. Davis responded when a contractor is hired they will begin sourcing for materials and determine the delivery schedule.

MOTION: Committee member by proxy Hoferer made a motion to approve and move forward to the Governing Body for action. Committee member Ortiz seconded. Motion approved 2-0-0.

Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Project Exceeding \$250K; North Topeka Wastewater Treatment Plant (NTWWTP) Boiler System Replacement Project Nos. 291149.05 and 291150.03

Utilities Director Sylvia Davis spoke to a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Project Exceeding \$250K to replace the boiler system at the North Topeka Wastewater

Treatment Plant (NTWWTP). The existing heat pump, boiler, pumps, and controls will be demolished and replaced with two new efficient boilers, pumps, controls and accessories. She spoke to the age of the boiler and the maintenance that has been done to the existing boiler in recent years. She added the importance to have this replaced in preparation for the upcoming winter.

Committee member Hoferer asked about the lead time for the materials. Davis responded there will not be any issues having the project completed by winter.

MOTION: Committee member Ortiz made a motion to approve and move forward to the Governing Body for action. Committee member by proxy Hoferer seconded. Motion approved 2-0-0.

Amendment to 2023-2025 Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) and 2023-2032 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) for additional funding for the 2023 Pavement Management Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program Project No. 841091.02

Public Works Director Steve Groen spoke to the proposed amendment to 2023-2025 Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) and 2023-2032 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) for additional funding for the 2023 Pavement Management Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program. He continued to speak to the Summerfield neighborhood project which includes storm and sewer work. Due to the heavy truck traffic over the course the asphalt has become damaged.

Committee member Ortiz asked about the timeline of the rehabilitation and reconstruction. Groen responded the project is ongoing.

Committee member Hoferer questioned the Summerfield project cost total increasing. Groen responded once the change order is approved by the Governing Body it would be \$750,000.

MOTION: Committee member Ortiz made a motion to approve and move forward to the Governing Body for action. Committee member by proxy Hoferer seconded. Motion approved 2-0-0.

Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Project Exceeding \$250K; Summerfield Neighborhood and rescinding Resolution No. 9544 Project Nos. 841091.02 and 501106.05

Public Works Director Steve Groen spoke to the Summerfield Neighborhood project and rescinding Resolution No. 9544 for additional funding for repairs.

MOTION: Committee member by proxy Hoferer made a motion to approve and move forward to the Governing Body for action. Committee member Ortiz seconded. Motion approved 2-0-0.

Other Items:

City Manager Dr. Robert Perez spoke to the Topeka Metropolitan Transit Authority

(TMTA) Metro On-Demand (MOD) program changes. He continued to speak to the Public Meetings that have been held discussing service areas and costs for users. He announced at the Governing Body meeting July 1, 2025 the TMTA will provide updates to the Council when they are discussing the Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR).

Committee member Ortiz expressed her appreciation for the update. She inquired when the vote will be made and what service areas will be impacted. Perez confirmed the TMTA Decision Meeting is on June 23, 2025. He also confirmed that he will share with the Public Infrastructure Committee what the proposed boundaries are. Ortiz continued to speak to the importance for the public to voice their opinion on the MOD program service changes.

Committee member Ortiz expressed her thanks to the Public Works staff for the help with recent property cases.

Public Comment:

Henry McClure thanked the Public Infrastructure Committee for having Public Comment. He continued to speak to the importance to run the Utilities Department like Jack Alexander. He added his disappointment with the Kansas Senate Bill 104.

Adjourned 11:20 a.m.

This meeting can be viewed online at: https://youtu.be/k30O_iRFbLE