



CITY OF TOPEKA

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

CITY COUNCIL
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Date: September 16, 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, David Banks (Chair) and Neil Dobler.

Council member present: Councilmember Michelle Hoferer.

City staff present: City Manager Dr. Robert M. Perez, Deputy City Manager Braxton Copley, Senior Attorney Brandy Roy-Bachman, Deputy Director Nicole Malott, Public Works Director Steve Groen, Deputy Director of Public Works Jason Tryon, Division Director of Planning Dan Warner.

Call to Order

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

Approval of August 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Committee member Neil Dobler made a motion to approve the August 19, 2025 meeting minutes. Committee member Sylvia Ortiz seconded. Motion approved 3-0-0.

Presentation and Discussion:

Potential Economic Impact of a KTA Interchange at 29th Street and California.

Braxton Copley Deputy City Manager spoke to the potential interchange at Interstate 470; 29th Street and California. Development Strategies completed an analysis of the project. He stated currently the project is in year 2030 of the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) and has an estimated project cost of \$19 million.

Andy Pfister Development Strategies provided a high-level presentation on the proposed interchange of the potential new development impacts, the fiscal impacts, and the economic benefits. He continued to outline the area's development over the next 25 years. He continued to predict construction of new housing, development of businesses, employment opportunities and how the potential market could impact the area. He stated it is estimated if the interchange was built today and over the next 25 years the net market value could be \$63 million. Additionally, tax revenues are

estimated with property taxes at \$1.7 million and \$1.8 million in sales tax revenue each year.

Committee member Ortiz asked for confirmation where the exchange is being proposed. Copley confirmed the best option was at the intersection is at 29th and California; due to existing roads.

Committee member Dobler spoke to the funding challenges of the initial project proposition and asked City Manager Perez what his recommendation is of the proposal. Perez responded with the project not being slated until 2030 there is time to see the interest from businesses. He added with the right portfolio, including retail and housing, there could be funding opportunities with partners Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA) or Shawnee County.

Council member Hoferer asked for confirmation which fire station is nearby. Perez responded Fire Station #9; 2447 SE 29th Street located on westside of KTA.

Council member Hoferer questioned the estimated maximum bondable amount. Copley responded there would be bonds needed to fund the project and those would be based on the City's creditworthiness.

Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Project Exceeding \$250K: River Weir - Crest Cap Project No 281255.04.

Utilities Deputy Director Nicole Malott spoke to the previous project at the River Weir in the Kansas River that involved lowering the upstream water elevation. She continued to speak that since then, the pumps for the water Treatment intake has experienced cavitation when the water surface elevation of the river becomes low. The project will address the water levels while maintaining the public safety improvements implemented through the previous project install of the concrete crest cap adjacent to the weir. Lastly, she added with approval the project cost is \$800,000 and construction would begin winter 2026 and complete March 2026.

Committee member Neil Dobler spoke to the original design of the pump configuration and questioned if the surface elevation was taken into consideration. Malott stated she was unsure what happened with the original design.

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

Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Project Exceeding \$250K: Oakland Waste Water Treatment Plant Ferric Chloride Tank System Project No. 291150.02.

Utilities Deputy Director Nicole Malott spoke to the proposed Oakland Waste Water Treatment Plant project involving replacing the Ferric Chloride Tank System. Work will include demolishing the existing tank and reconfiguring piping. The improvements will enhance the systems reliability and ensure safer chemical handling and support a

more efficient digester for operations. The cost is \$473,200 and is estimated at taking six months for construction.

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

Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Project Exceeding \$250K: NW Menninger Road Project Nos. 841097.06, 841099.08, 501105.16, 501107.09.

Public Works Director Steve Groen spoke to the proposed street and stormwater improvements project on NW Menninger Road from Green Hills to Rochester and rescinding Resolution No. 9504. The project will consist of mill an overlay with full depth patching. There will be a replacement to the concrete box added and funded under the Stormwater Conveyance System Rehabilitation Program. The stormwater program leverages operating funds and revenue bonds. The proposed project is estimated at \$1,260,000 and would be constructed winter 2026.

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

Other Items:

Facilities Improvements, Repair and Maintenance Program (FIRM) Project Nos. 131083.11 and 131083.12.

Deputy Director Pubic Works Jason Tryon provided information on two projects from the Facilities Improvements, Repair and Maintenance Program (FIRM) spending. The Topeka Police staff has requested an employee fence at the Law Enforcement Center (LEC); the barrier fence would allow for additional security for employees. The project is estimated at \$210,000. The second project is for an Exterior Leak at the Holliday building estimated at \$94,000. The project will address two ongoing leaks on the South exposure of the building. He added after the tuckpointing is completed there is two additional areas to address; broken pipes on the 2nd floor balcony and water damage to offices in the first floor. In addition, there is water penetration from the planter areas and cracks in the parking deck. This project will repair the broken pipes, re-route drainage, and seal planter areas.

Councilmember Ortiz expressed she will not support the employee fence at LEC due to the unsettledness it could give the community. She added her willingness to speak to Chief of Police Chris Vallejo and Assistant City Manager Avery Moore about additional ways to show the community they are welcome. Lastly, she did show her support for the Holliday building exterior leak project.

Council member Hoferer questioned where the fence would be located at LEC. Tryon responded the fencing would be on the westside of the LEC building where the staff park their personal vehicles. The 6' tall fence would have a badge operated entry.

Committee member Dobler inquired about the number of incidents in the staff parking lot. Tryon responded that he would need to get the exact specifics from the Police Department. Dobler added that he will not support the fence unless he knows the past five years of incidents in the staff parking lot.

I-70 Polk Quincy East

Public Works Director Steve Groen spoke to the I-70 Topeka Polk-Quincy Viaduct project study in 2009 involving residents, community leaders and stakeholders to assess needs and possible solutions. He continued to speak to the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) 2025 Local Consult that is held on Thursday, October 9th, 2025, 9:00-12:00pm at the Manor Conference Center in Topeka. He added the Local Consult is KDOT's public engagement process for the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation (IKE) Program, held every two years to gather input from Kansans on potential expansion and modernization projects in each region. This process helps strengthen local partnerships, identify the KDOT programs that matter most to communities, and gather feedback on how KDOT can improve delivery. He continued to speak to the Public Works Department asking for support of the PQV East Project from the Public Infrastructure Committee and Governing Body. Public Works has budgeted \$19 Million in the 2028 CIP for this project.

Committee member Dobler inquired about the IKE program funding. Groen confirmed the proposed project would be part of the IKE program. He added he is anticipating a news release soon of a funding update.

Committee member Ortiz questioned how the neighborhood residents and Neighborhood Improvement Associations (NIA) will be notified of this project. Deputy City Manager Braxton Copley responded historically KDOT only conducts a press release for the announcement. He continued to speak to the importance the City is taking to communicate the project to the Public Infrastructure Committee and Governing Body members. Lastly, he added the presence at the KDOT meeting is influential to the decisions of selecting projects.

Public Works Director Groen stated there will be a press release of the project meeting that will be held October 9th, 2025. Also, the Governing Body members will be briefed at the Governing Body meeting October 7, 2025.

Committee member Hoferer questioned the proposed construction timeline of the I-70 Polk Quincy East project. Brian Armstrong, Project Engineer, Bartlett & West responded preliminary work is showing 2030 with two years construction; all contingent on development of design, bridge condition issues, and funding.

Committee member Hoferer requested the (KDOT) 2025 Local Consult that is held on October 9, 2025 and asked if there will be a list of all projects released before the meeting. Groen confirmed there will be a project list provided from KDOT 24 hours before the meeting and then at that point he will share with the Governing Body.

Committee member Ortiz thanked the Public Works Department for all their work recently in the City. She also expressed her compliments of the good work on the road construction in front of Topeka's Sunflower Association Sports Complex on NW 17th Street and Lower Silver Lake Road.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment.

Adjourned 11:49 a.m.

This meeting can be viewed online at: <https://youtu.be/18DNwGyKscw>