



City Hall Update

August 2016

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Improving Our Infrastructure – Streets, Utilities, Transit, Sidewalks, Bike Paths and Trails

The most significant infrastructure project we have under construction right now is the Wakarusa Wastewater Treatment Plant. This is a \$74.1 million project which provides additional treatment capacity for our existing community needs and prepares our city for future growth up to a population of approximately 127,000 residents. The plant is set to be completed in the spring of 2018.

This year, the city dedicated over \$12 million to street maintenance and construction. Several projects, including 19th and Ousdahl and the Bob Billings Parkway Project (Kasold to K-10), will finishing major phases of construction in August before school starts. Please note, the projects may not be completely finished but the impact to traffic in the roadway will be less evident later this month.

Other Public Works projects currently underway include the construction of the Maple Street Pump Station in north Lawrence and a 50-50 cost share with KDOT to resurface Iowa Street from 23rd to 31st Street.

In addition to these major construction projects, the city is also working on many street maintenance projects including mill/overlay, crack-sealing, microsurfacing and the construction of curbs, gutters and stormwater drainage throughout Lawrence.

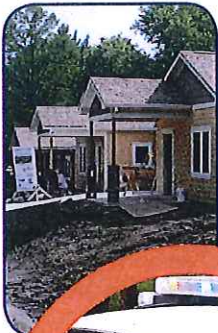
Walking, biking and ADA accessibility is an important value of our community. The city continues to be a leader in the construction and development of trails and paths which allow our residents access to all parts of the community by walking or biking. The Lawrence Loop is a project that, when completed, will provide a continuous 22-mile trail around the city limits. Public Works and the Parks and Recreation Department are working together to develop the Lawrence Loop as an amenity for the community. The city has added two sections to the trail in 2016 alone including trails through Rock Chalk Park and another section called the Baldwin Creek Trail, also in northwest Lawrence. The loop is approximately 80% complete to date.

The Public Works Department is developing a program in the fall of 2016 to address necessary repairs to sidewalks in all areas of the city, including residential areas. Parks and Recreation has begun a three-year program to replace sections of sidewalks and mid-block crossings in the downtown area to address accessibility and ADA issues.

Our Transit system, The T, continues to see ridership expand each year. The combined transit system with The University of Kansas, had over 1 million riders in 2015. In 2016, we're expanding three of our routes to provide 30-minute service because of increased demand for public transit. Additionally, the city and KU worked together to apply for a grant to locate a transit hub on campus to centralize services for the overall community. We will find out later this year if this grant was successful.



Improving Our Infrastructure



Public Safety, Mental Health & Affordable Housing



Looking Ahead to 2017 (on back)



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Looking Ahead: 2017 and Beyond

This month, the City Commission will finalize the 2017 budget. The budget is guided by the City Commission's identified goals: public safety, mental health, infrastructure, non-motorized transportation/transit, affordable housing and economic development. The budget will be finalized in a few weeks. The total 2017 city budget is approximately \$191 million. The mill levy for 2017 is capped at 32.018 (compared to 31.488 for 2016). You can calculate your estimated property taxes at www.lawrenceks.org/finance.

Public Safety, Mental Health & Affordable Housing

As part of our efforts to continue to adequately fund core city services including public safety, sanitation, utility services, parks and recreation and the support services necessary to provide these functions, cuts were made in some other areas of the budget for 2017. Funding has been reallocated in some areas to fund programming for mental health and affordable housing goals. We have recommended funding for a Mental Health Squad in the Police Department to support the ongoing efforts of the department, and other partners in the Lawrence community, to provide training, support and assistance to persons suffering with mental illness when interacting with or involved with local law enforcement.

Affordable housing is a nationwide issue. In 2017, we are recommending \$300,000 be utilized in the budget to leverage additional funding - public or private - to provide quality, affordable homes for our residents.

Improving Our Infrastructure – Future Projects

This month, the City Commission will have a work session focused on two major road construction projects for future construction: Kasold Drive, from 6th to Bob Billings Parkway, and the reconstruction of Wakarusa from Inverness to Harvard. The outcome of those discussions will finalize the program of work for construction projects in 2017. As currently proposed, the 2017 budget includes approximately \$12 million in infrastructure reinvestment -- \$8.3 million in capital improvements and approximately \$3.9 million in street maintenance.

Community & Economic Development

Economic development is the sustained, concerted efforts of a community and its policymakers to improve the standard of living and economic health of an area. Economic development is not solely about incentives or business recruitment. Our community must look for ways to remain relevant, including the development of a skilled workforce, while continuing our efforts to grow our tax base for the future health of our community. The city is currently reviewing our economic development policies to ensure that our goals match community values and sets Lawrence apart to achieve success in a very competitive economic climate.

The Tax Lid

The State of Kansas has enacted a tax lid which will go into effect in 2018. The 2017 budget was developed with the knowledge that the tax lid will put added pressure on the city to provide core city services. The tax lid will generally cap the growth in property tax revenue by the increase in the consumer price index each year. If the property tax lid were in place for 2017, growth in property tax revenue would have been limited to 1.6%. For 2017, the city was able to realize 3.8% growth in property taxes (assessed valuation on real property). This illustrates the pressure the city will continue to face once the tax lid is in place in 2018 and shows the need to grow our tax base to continue to fund the city services and programs our community has grown to expect and enjoy.



Transportation & Transit

