

**PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, March 25, 2024**

The meeting of the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee was held on Monday, March 25, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. The following members were present: Commissioner Burroughs, Chairman, Commissioners Kane, Burns, Lopez, Stites; and BPU Board Member Henry. The following officials were also in attendance: Alyssa Marcy, Planning Department; Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator; SueZanne Bishop, Senior Attorney; Monica L. Sparks, Interim UG Clerk, Brittnie MacDonald and Jessica Gabaree, UG Clerk's Office.

Chairman Burroughs said before I call the meeting to order, I want to announce that some committee members, staff, and the public are attending remotely as well as on site. All participants joining remotely should please mute phones and devices when you're not speaking to avoid background noise. During the meeting, make sure you announce yourself by name and title when you speak, so that the public knows who's speaking and we have an accurate record. This is critical given the number of remote participants, it's also guidance from the Kansas Attorney General's Office.

The public is allowed to participate by Zoom or submit comments by email prior to the meeting and those comments are included in the record of our meeting. The public can also indicate their intent to provide public comment by contacting our Clerk's Office by 5:00 P.M. the Thursday prior to meetings. The public also has an opportunity to provide comments, either by telephone, Zoom, or here in person in the 5th Floor Conference Room tonight, the night of the meeting.

Chairman Burroughs called the meeting to order.

Roll call was taken and all members were present as shown above.

Chairman Burroughs said I do notice that we do have two members that are on remotely, so if I don't see their hands, will somebody be mindful to have me recognize them if you should have any questions.

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Approval of the minutes from February 13, 2023. **On motion of Commissioner Kane, seconded by Commissioner Burns, the minutes were approved.** Roll call was taken and there were six “Ayes,” Henry, Lopez, Burns, Stites, Kane, Burroughs.

Chairman Burroughs said we only had two action items that dispenses with one. Our next item up is the approving of the 2024 Inter-Departmental Coalition Proposal. It’s a resolution authorizing the working group projects as outlined in the materials and I believe we have Alyssa Marcy from our Planning Department to make the presentation.

COMMITTEE AGENDA

Item No. 1 – 2121...RESOLUTION: APPROVING 2024 INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COALITION PROPOSAL

Synopsis: Approval of a resolution authorizing the Unified Government Inter-Departmental Working Group projects for grant pursuit in 2024, submitted by Gunnar H. Hand, AICP, Director of Planning and Urban Design.

Alyssa Marcy, Long Range Planner, Planning and Urban Design Department, said I also serve as the coordinator for this Inter-Departmental Working Group. I do want to recognize we do have some staff members from the working group here in the audience. Tonight, I'm going to basically provide a brief overview of what our group is and what we do. For some of you that might may be a refresh, for some of you this may be new and then of course approval of the resolution is the goal. If you could pop up the presentation, thank you.

2024 INTER-DEPARTMENTAL GRANT PROPOSAL

Maximize Impact | Federal Funds

- Missed opportunities and lessons learned
 - No-match grants (e.g. Justice40)
- Further leverage collaboration between departments for more focused pursuits
- Move from chasing funding to prioritizing projects

Shovel-Ready

- Project scope is defined through study with budget range and impact assessment.
- Aligns to public policy goals.

Shovel-Worthy

- Plans for operation and maintenance are defined.
- Sustainable funding is anticipated/available.
- Leverages other investments.

DECEMBER 2022

Multi-department "coalition" convenes to prepare for 2023 grant opportunities

MARCH 2023

Presented 2023 Project List to Commission

JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2023

Submitted 17 grant applications. Developed go/no-go criteria to evaluate grant opportunities

DECEMBER 2023

Refined 2024 project lists for presentation to Commission

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We formed in 2022 in part as a response to a lack of inter-departmental coordination that was occurring across departments. Our overarching goal was to be able to harness the historic funding that is available on the federal level to meet all the needs that we have. Also to evaluate how we've done in the past in terms of accessing grants and make plans to better collaborate over the future. Historically we've sort of gone through, oh here's a grant, we have to apply for it now, what are we going to apply for it for. But now we're trying to reposition where in instead we select these priority projects and then we seek a grant that fits those best so we're not so much in a rush to apply for the grant and we know that we have the best fit for our community.

2024 INTER-DEPARTMENTAL GRANT PROPOSAL

Maximize Impact | Grant Pursuits to Date

Grant	Year Awarded	Match	Outcome
Safe Streets for All	2022	20% (KDOT)	Received \$1M for a Vision Zero Action Plan
Reconnecting Communities	2023	N/A	Not Received
RAISE	2023	None required	Received \$4.5M for East -West Transit Corridor
Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant	2023	None required	TBD
HUD CPF Grants (3)	2023	None required	Received \$400K for Klamm Park, \$11.5M for Summer Area Green Corridor, and \$1.5M for 6th Street
Carbon Reduction	2023	20% (ARPA)	\$1.2M for NE KCK Heritage Trail
U.S. Army Corps	2023	20%	\$700K for Armourdale Watershed
EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant Program	2023	None required	TBD

Submitted 19 grants from late 2022 to present
Received over \$20M in grant awards to date

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This is a list of just some of our grant pursuits since we started in December of 2022. In total we've submitted 19 grants, and we have received over \$20M in funding so far. The numbers may be a little bit different on your current presentation. We have had some updates just even in the last week of grants that we've heard back from and things like that. But you'll see from this table it's important to note that on the match column, we're trying very hard to prioritize no match grants. Our County Administrator had given us that directive and that is what we are following. We're either pursuing no match grants or trying to take advantage of programs that will cover matches for us.

2024 INTER-DEPARTMENTAL GRANT PROPOSAL

Maximize Impact | No Match Grants

- Increasing opportunities for no-match grants, especially for Justice40 communities
- Build Kansas Fund
- KDOT Cost Share Program
- Leveraging existing grant awards as in-kind match

\$200M
in matching funds

KANSAS
INFRASTRUCTURE HUB

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That being said there are lots of opportunities for us to pursue no match grants. Typically, with grants there is usually a 20% match requirement that has to come out of our money. We can also see 25 to 50% match requirements. However, Kansas City, Kansas is a Justice40 Community, which means we often qualify for no match requirements and that's actually becoming more and more common. The state of Kansas just in this past year released the Build Kansas Fund and that is a pot of money that's solely dedicated to providing matching funds. So even if it isn't a no match grant, you can apply for the match through that program. That is something that we're also working with. In addition, KDOT has a cost share program, so if you're going after a project that meets certain criteria that they're prioritizing they will help cover the cost of a match requirement. Then again, if possible, we'll leverage other grants that were awarded so that we're not spending money that we don't have.

(Someone was Inaudible)

Ms. Marcy said Justice 40 is an executive order that was put forth by the Biden Administration at the very beginning of his term. Essentially what it says is communities that are labeled as disadvantaged for various reasons, that can be low income, that can be health disparities, that can be legacy pollution, should be prioritized in grant funding. So, 40% of all federal funding because of this executive order has to go to a disadvantaged Justice40 community. Like I said earlier, basically all of KCK is a Justice40 community, outside of Piper and parts of Turner, and like a little bit of Rosedale that's near KU Med.



One of the things we did work on in this past year outside of applying for grants is developing Go/No-Go Criteria, because we don't have like a single entity working across departments to kind of help us prioritize grant and projects. We decided that we needed to create some criteria so that we can evaluate grant pursuits as they come in so that we're able to make the most effective decision. If you'll see there's kind of two tiers here for criteria. A lot of these things are you know pretty common sense. Do we have the staff to first apply for the grant, and second to implement the program if we get the money for it. Is it going to benefit the community. Do we have the support from our leadership, those types of things. If we get a grant that comes across our table and it doesn't score very well in this first tier, we know it's probably not worth it, but if it's a little close we'll go on to the second tier of criteria. This has allowed us to really figure out where to invest our time and what might be the best fit for our grants and our projects.

2024 INTER-DEPARTMENTAL GRANT PROPOSAL

Collaborate | Maximize Every Dollar



PROJECT A
Levee Betterment Project*



PROJECT B
East-West Transit Study Phase II*



PROJECT C
Countywide Deficient Watershed Betterment*



PROJECT D
NE KCK Heritage Trail and Quindaro Townsite*



PROJECT E
Regional Public Safety Training Facility & Community Center*



PROJECT F
Countywide Weatherization Program*



PROJECT G
Kansas* and Central Avenue Bridge*



PROJECT H
Microtransit and Other Rideshare Programs



PROJECT I
Urban Heat Island Strategy Implementation



PROJECT J
Rainbow Boulevard Implementation



PROJECT K
Citywide Fleet Electrification Pilot Project *



PROJECT L
Planning, Design and Construction for Parks & Community Centers*



PROJECT M
K-32 Corridor

* carried over from 2023

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Now I'm going to take you just very briefly through all of our proposed projects for grant pursuits for 2024. For this list you'll see that there are asterisks next to several of those projects. That is because they are projects that are carried over from last year. When we went to standing committee and we had a resolution adopted to proceed for those projects. The reason they're still on the list is for multiple reasons but one is that maybe it's a long-term project and we it was only partially funded. Maybe it's phased a certain way. Maybe we haven't found a grant that fits it yet or perhaps we were not awarded the grant that we pursued for that particular project.

2024 INTER-DEPARTMENTAL GRANT PROPOSAL

PROJECT A |
Levee Betterment Project



PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE	
Partners	Public Works, Public Health, Planning & Urban Design, Parks and Recreation, US Army Corps of Engineers, Kaw Valley Drainage District, Armourdale Renewal Association, Rock Island Bridge Development, Historic West Bottoms
Project Cost	>\$25M
Project Timeline	As soon as funding is awarded
Relevant Plans	PlanKCK; Armourdale Area Plan; goDotte Countywide Mobility Strategy, Hazard Mitigation Plan; NE KCK Heritage Trail Plan, Merriam Connected Corridor Plan
Relevant Grants	Transportation Alternatives, RAISE

PROJECT SCOPE

As the United States Army Corps of Engineers is improving the Kansas River levee system across Wyandotte County, it is time for reinvestment in KCK's waterfront communities. Beginning in the historic Northeast, Downtown, and Armourdale neighborhoods, the UG is developing riverfront access, trails, and amenities.

The Rock Island Bridge, American Riverfront Heritage Trail, and Levee Betterment connections are designed to improve access to healthy activities, connect to neighboring communities and job markets (including Kansas City, Missouri and Johnson County, Kansas), recreation and economic development.



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I'll just point out the structure based on this first project. Each of these will show you who the partners are involved, the cost and timeline if we have that information. Sometimes that timeline's hard to pin down until we actually receive the grant funding. The plans it was identified in one of the things that we did in this group is that at the very beginning in December 2022, we reviewed every single strategy and plan and project at the UG to prioritize which ones made the most sense. They had to come from somewhere and then of course any relevant grants that we think might be a good fit for this particular project. As you may know we have the levee improvements going on. The Army Corps is heading up that project that's improving the levee's for flooding, but we also have a project that would provide a recreational trail. This would connect our communities all the way from western Wyandotte County to eastern Wyandotte County and then over into connect to trails into KCMO.

2024 INTER-DEPARTMENTAL GRANT PROPOSAL
PROJECT B |
East-West Transit Study Phase II



PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE	
Partners	Transportation; Public Works; Planning + Urban Design; Rosedale Development Association; KCATA; City of Kansas City, Missouri; RideKC Streetcar; University of Kansas Health System
Project Cost	Contingent on current study results
Project Timeline	Q1 2024 – Q1 2027
Relevant Plans	PlanKCK; Rosedale Area Plan; goDotte Countywide Mobility Strategy; Rainbow Boulevard Complete Streets Traffic Study
Relevant Grants	Received \$4.5M RAISE grant in 2023 for Phase 1.5 Received \$150K MARC PSP grant for Rainbow Blvd



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PROJECT SCOPE

Beginning in 2022, the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA) and project partners, including the UG, evaluated an east -west, high -capacity transit connection between the University of Kansas Health System and Rock Island Corridor/Truman Sports Complex (Kauffman Stadium and Arrowhead Stadium). Results of this initial project phase have determined a streetcar route that will end at the KU Medical Center in Rosedale as the preferred alternative. Project partners, including the City of Westwood and Westwood Hills, won a \$700K MARC PSP grant for Rainbow Blvd in 2023, which will allow for advanced planning along the corridor that intersects with the forthcoming streetcar along 39th St. The East- West transit corridor would be the first bi-state fixed route line in over 100 years and opens the door for future streetcar expansion into KCK and Wyandotte County.

The second project is ongoing. This is the East-West Transit Corridor. This is a multi-jurisdictional project between Kansas City, Missouri, the Kansas University Health System, and KU Med, KCATA, RideKC Streetcar. It's been going on for I think since 2022 now and the idea is to connect Arrowhead Stadium to KU Med. We just finished phase 1.5 which was funded by a no match raise grant and so that really identified the primary corridor and the mode of streetcar. We do have remaining funding on this that will go into the next phase, which does include some design, but we will need to look for additional funding for construction after that.

2024 INTER-DEPARTMENTAL GRANT PROPOSAL

PROJECT C |
Countywide Deficient Watershed Betterment



PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE	
Partners	Public Works; Parks & Recreation; Planning + Urban Design; Public Health; Land Bank; Groundwork NRG; Quindaro Foundation Project; USD 500, Downtown Shareholders, Livable Neighborhoods, NBRs and Neighborhood Groups
Project Cost	>\$100M
Project Timeline	2019-2028
Relevant Plans	PlanKCK; Northeast Area Plan; Downtown Area Plan, Central Area Plan, Armourdale Area Plan, Watershed Deficiency Study; Combined Sewer Overflow Control Plan; Parks Master Plan; goDotte Countywide Mobility Strategy
Relevant Grants	USACE; WIFIA/SRF

PROJECT SCOPE
KCK requires many infrastructure updates which the commission has supported through the approvals of WIFIA/SRF/ARPA funded programs and partnering with MARC to fund much needed studies. Many ongoing projects, such as Jersey Creek environmental restoration, are partially funded but require additional grants to reach completion.



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This is a large scope. Like the rest of the United States, Wyandotte County has a lot of water infrastructure in great need of upgrades. Further many of our combined sewer systems are under consent decree by the federal government and what this means is we are under contract with the government to fix that infrastructure by a certain date. Otherwise, we are fined if we do not meet those upgrades. However, there are a lot of available grant and finance opportunities for these. Some of these projects have been funded but again a lot of aging infrastructure in this country. Eventually we'll have to work on upgrading our water infrastructure across the county.

2024 INTER-DEPARTMENTAL GRANT PROPOSAL

PROJECT D |
NE KCK Heritage Trail and Quindaro Townsite



PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE	
Partners	Public Works; Parks & Recreation; Planning + Urban Design; Public Health; Land Bank; Groundwork NRG; Quindaro Foundation Project; NE Neighborhood Groups; Livable Neighborhoods
Project Cost	\$5-7M
Project Timeline	2023 - 2028
Relevant Plans	PlanKCK; Northeast Area Plan; NE KCK Heritage Trail Plan; 2020 Complete Streets Policy; Combined Sewer Overflow Control Plan; goDotte Countywide Mobility Strategy
Relevant Grants	Received \$1.2M from MARC's Carbon Reduction Grant; will pursue next round of Carbon Reduction program

PROJECT SCOPE
Funding the NE KCK Heritage Trail will pull the community's history to the forefront, generate positive economic impacts, increase mobility, and contribute to improve human and environmental health. The Heritage Trail project can weave in adjacent projects that address community needs, such as access to healthy foods, green infrastructure improvements, and any betterment additions to the ongoing CSO improvement projects.

Groundwork NRG has received \$300,000 for green infrastructure work along Jersey Creek.



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The next is Northeast KCK Heritage Trail in the Quindaro Townsite. We did receive \$1.2M last year to start the Heritage Trail. That will connect Kaw Point to Jersey Creek and that will be done

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in time for the World Cup in 2026, which is great because Kaw Point also connects to the American Riverfront Heritage Trail which goes straight into the West Bottoms. We're looking for additional funding that will connect all the way to the Quindaro Townsite and we know that there's a lot of interest in our community to do some development up in that area.

2024 INTER-DEPARTMENTAL GRANT PROPOSAL
PROJECT E |
Regional Public Safety
Training Facility & Community Center



PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE	
Partners	KCKFD; KCKPD; Sheriff's Department; Planning + Urban Design; Public Health; KCKCC; USD 500; Donnelly College; MIDE; Tesseract
Project Cost	\$70M
Project Timeline	Five years from start
Relevant Plans	PlanKCK, Fire Department Facilities Plan
Relevant Grants	Recompete Program (EDA)

PROJECT SCOPE

This regional training facility would serve public safety organizations across the metropolitan area and larger region, offering training and educational opportunities for existing professionals and workforce development for future public safety professionals. The facility would serve as a multi-service hub, offering health care services, childcare, enhanced transit facilities and an interactive museum. Collaboration with multiple entities is essential in the execution of this interdisciplinary facility, engaging stakeholders such as health-focused organizations and local schools and colleges. The facility can also double as a potential income generator, renting out space, equipment, and amenities for events and training. The facility serves many community needs while preparing future generations for careers in public safety, trades, and technology.



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The next one is brought by the Fire Department. This idea has been growing for the last few years. It's really started as a Regional Training Facility. There's only a few in this country, but the idea is to bring in public safety professionals from across the country for safety training and education. However, the idea is really grown in to include more, such as a community center that can serve as a hub providing everything from health services to childcare, and other community events. Right now, we haven't pursued any funding for this as of yet. We're kind of waiting for some staff reorganization in the Fire Department but this is something that we would still like to pursue.

2024 INTER-DEPARTMENTAL GRANT PROPOSAL

PROJECT F |
Countywide Weatherization, Home Repair, and Remediation Program



PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE	
Partners	BPU; Public Health; Planning + Urban Design; Community Development; Livable Neighborhoods; Public Works; NBRs; Local Colleges; Public Schools; KCK Housing Authority
Project Cost	\$3M-\$5M (weatherization + community solar)
Project Timeline	5-year pilot project
Relevant Plans	Community Health Improvement Plan; PlanKCK
Relevant Grants	Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Program – Implementation Funding; Climate Pollution Reduction Grant; Community Change Grant; Weatherization Assistance Program

PROJECT SCOPE

The Board of Public Utilities (BPU) recognizes the need to shift to more efficient, affordable energy production and consumption. Utility bills are rising while many of the aging homes require retrofitting and weatherization. One component of this program would be an Energy Audit and Weatherization Program, which could provide weatherization solutions and financial assistance for more energy efficient upgrades. BPU is also pursuing a Community Solar Farm to expand its renewable energy portfolio and diversify production away from fossil fuels.

Furthermore, the weatherization program can be paired with other existing programs in the UG, including Minor Home Repair and kNOW Lead.



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The next project is also a large bucket of projects. We hear a lot about how our utility bills are rising here. We also compared to the Kansas City Metropolitan area, have one of the largest stocks of old houses. These old homes are energy inefficient. A lot of them don't have insulation if you live in a house like mine built in 1921. A lot of those things cost money just to heat or cool down. We hear time and time again that we need to lower those utility costs. There's also a lot of federal money out right now to be able to do Energy Efficiency project so it's a great time to do that. This project also considers the fact that we have multiple minor home repair programs that kind of meet some of these needs but need more funding. Also, needs like remediation, a lot of those old homes also happen to have lead in them. This program looks at adding more funding to meet these really important needs for our housing stock, but also trying to look at ways that how can we only go to a home once and do multiple things while we're there.

2024 INTER-DEPARTMENTAL GRANT PROPOSAL

PROJECT G | Kansas and Central Avenue Bridges



PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE	
Partners	Public Works, Transportation; Planning + Urban Design; Historic West Bottoms; Armourdale Renewal Association; KCMO
Project Cost	<\$400M
Project Timeline	Grant dependent
Relevant Plans	PlanKCK; Armourdale Area Plan; goDotte Countywide Mobility Plan; Complete Streets Ordinance
Relevant Grants	Applied for the MegaInfra Grant (2023); potential earmark funds for Kansas in 2024 Applied for RAISE grant in February 2024 for Central

PROJECT SCOPE

The Kansas Avenue Bridge is an interjurisdictional project partnering with KCMO to replace and rehabilitate this bi-state connector from Southwest Trafficway to 7th Street. This infrastructure endeavor will be an opportunity to implement the UG's Complete Streets ordinance, service ongoing Levee betterment projects, and serve as an economic development tool.

The Central Avenue Bridge is under consideration for future funding opportunities based on desires expressed by community members to both conduct emergency repairs to temporarily repair the bridge to vehicular traffic, as well as a new multi-modal bridge and improvements from 6th Street to James Street.



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Project G is our bridge projects. We started with just the Kansas Bridge and added the Central Avenue Bridge this past year after we heard from the community that this was a primary concern. Both these bridges need a lot of work. We have applied for the raised grant in February for Central Avenue, that was submitted then. We did apply for Kansas Avenue for the MegaInfra but we did not receive that, so we are looking for another grant for that bridge.

2024 INTER-DEPARTMENTAL GRANT PROPOSAL

PROJECT H | Microtransit & Other Rideshare Programs



PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE	
Partners	Transportation; Public Works; Planning + Urban Design; Public Health; NBRs; Edwardsville, Bonner Springs
Project Cost	TBD
Project Timeline	Pilot Project 2023 - 2024
Relevant Plans	PlanKCK; goDotte Countywide Strategic Mobility Plan; Northeast Area Plan
Relevant Grants	BRIC; AARP Community Challenge

PROJECT SCOPE

Microtransit is flexible routing and scheduling using a smaller vehicle within a designated area. The service only operates when there is a demand, making it more efficient and responsive to riders. The Department of Transportation received funding to expand service in Northeast KCK as a one year pilot program. The Edwardsville microtransit route was launched in November 2023. Additional on-going funding is needed.

Additionally, this scope includes the addition of covered bus shelters and benches, with a focus on State Avenue.

The Department of Transportation would also like to expand rideshare programs such as a non-emergency medical transportation.



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Next on transportation. Our Transportation Department has been doing a lot of work to expand our public transit options despite budget constraints. Part of this is introducing Microtransit into our community. UG Transportation did receive funding for some Microtransit projects. One which

launched in the fall in Edwardsville, their Microtransit program and there's also one that will happen in the northeast probably this year. These are only pilot projects, so we do need money to sustain them and of course there's other places that would also benefit from public transit.

2024 INTER-DEPARTMENTAL GRANT PROPOSAL

PROJECT I |
Urban Heat Island Strategy Implementation



PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

Partners	Parks and Recreation; Transportation; Public Health; Planning + Urban Design; Public Works; NBRs and Neighborhood Groups
Project Cost	\$100M over 10 years
Project Timeline	Grant dependent
Relevant Plans	PlanKCK; goDotte Countywide Strategic Mobility Plan; Community Health Improvement Plan; Armourdale Area Plan; Northeast Area Plan; NE KCK Heritage Trail Plan; Rosedale Area Plan; Downtown Area Plan; Central Area Plan
Relevant Grants	Climate Pollution Reduction Grant; Hollywood Casino Grants; EJ CPS Grant

PROJECT SCOPE

In 2023, the UG Public Health Department partnered with Johnson County to complete a countywide urban heat island mapping effort in partnership with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The data identifies the county's hottest locations – primarily, areas with the least tree canopy and greater presence of concrete/asphalt. Implementing the urban heat island strategy includes tree planting, complete streets projects, and bus shelters.



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The next is our Urban Heat Island Strategy. Our Health Department, in partnership with the Johnson County Health Department, did a countywide urban heat island mapping this summer. If you haven't looked at the map, I definitely recommend it. We are a very hot place especially in the summertime, even compared to Johnson County. This particular project is a newer one, but it looks at implementing strategies to address our hotspots in the county. This is anything from planting trees or increasing our vegetation coverage to things like covered bus shelters.

2024 INTER-DEPARTMENTAL GRANT PROPOSAL

PROJECT J | Rainbow Boulevard Implementation



PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE	
Partners	KU Med; City of Westwood, City of Westwood Hills, Rosedale Development Association; Spring Valley Neighborhood Association; Frank Rushton Neighborhood; Livable Neighborhoods; Public Works; Public Health; Transportation; Planning + Urban Design
Project Cost	TBD
Project Timeline	2023-2026
Relevant Plans	PlanKCK; goDotte Strategic Mobility Plan; Rosedale Area Plan; University Town Plan
Relevant Grants	Surface Transportation Program Block Grant

PROJECT SCOPE

A complete streets traffic study of Rainbow Boulevard began in August 2023 and is expected to be completed in Q1 of 2024. The public is looking to increase safety in the corridor for all mode users, including pedestrians crossing the street to go to and from school, safe spaces to bike, defined and covered transit stops, and slower traffic speeds. The road itself is also in need of general pavement improvements and other deferred maintenance.



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The next project is Rainbow Boulevard Implementation. Right now, there is a planning project, a traffic study going on at Rainbow Boulevard. That's in collaboration with the city of Westwood, Westwood Hills, KU Med and others to look at making changes to Rainbow because of safety concerns. That area is growing a lot and there's a lot of plans for the college and the health system to expand. That project will wrap up probably in the next month or two and we are looking for funding to actually implement those changes.

2024 INTER-DEPARTMENTAL GRANT PROPOSAL

PROJECT K | Citywide Fleet Electrification Pilot Project



PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE	
Partners	Transportation; BPU; Public Works; Public Health; KCKFD; KCKPD; Parks & Recreation; School Districts; KCK Housing Authority; and all other UG vehicles
Project Cost	TBD
Project Timeline	Grant dependent
Relevant Plans	PlanKCK; goDotte Strategic Mobility Plan
Relevant Grants	Transportation Alternatives

PROJECT SCOPE

Electrifying fleet vehicles (including UG Transit vehicles, school buses, and municipal fleets) would increase cost savings, reduce emissions, and contribute to improved air quality. This project requires educational initiatives, the implementation of EV infrastructure, and development of a solar farm and battery storage system.

Any electrification project seeking federal funds will require a Zero -Emission Fleet Transition Plan, which is currently under development with MARC. Available federal funding focuses on a fleet electrification demonstration, such as electric vehicle charging at transit stops along State Avenue or additional, publicly -available charging stations in Downtown KCK.



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Next is the Citywide Fleet Electrification Program. This covers many different aspects of the UG. This is anything from our Public Transit buses to any sort of safety vehicles, Fire Department,

Public Works, Public Health, our school buses. We've been in conversation with a bunch of different entities with this and first we were looking at doing a pilot project. That would probably involve a partnership between our Transportation Department and our Public School System.

2024 INTER-DEPARTMENTAL GRANT PROPOSAL
PROJECT L |
Planning, Design and Construction
for Parks & Community Centers



PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE	
Partners	Parks & Recreation; Transportation; Public Works; Planning + Urban Design; Public Health; Community Development; and community engagement partners
Project Cost	Dependent on grant scope (facilities, grounds, programming, etc.)
Project Timeline	As funds are awarded
Relevant Plans	Parks Master Plan; Recreation Center Study; PlanKCK; goDotte Countywide Strategic Mobility Plan
Relevant Grants	HUD Community Project Funding

PROJECT SCOPE

Many Wyandotte County parks facilities need remediation, revitalization, and repurposing to meet community needs. Additionally, many active facilities need HVAC and other basic infrastructure improvement to maintain functionality. Not all communities have the same programming needs, and through the necessary investment, programs can be tailored, created, and staffed to meet those needs.

The UG has committed to investing in its parks through local grant awards, beautification programs, and other public health initiatives for facility upgrades and maintenance, beautification, public health, and programming.



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Next this is also kind of a broad bucket of projects, but we know that our parks need a lot of updates. We have facility improvements that we need. We have ADA compliance projects that we need to do, as well as general maintenance and programming. Within the last two years Parks has received multiple grants for projects including Boston Daniels Park, and Klamm Park. We're working on 6th Street in the Sumner Green Corridor. This is kind of one of those continued long-term projects where we're just going to be looking for more funding to help Parks and Recreation do their work.

2024 INTER-DEPARTMENTAL GRANT PROPOSAL

PROJECT M |
K-32 Corridor Improvements

PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

Partners	Public Works; Transportation; Planning + Urban Design; Edwardsville; Bonner Springs; KCATA
Project Cost	Dependent on grant scope (infrastructure improvements)
Project Timeline	As funds are awarded
Relevant Plans	Tri - City; Recreation Center Study; PlanKCK; goDotte Countywide Strategic Mobility Plan
Relevant Grants	Surface Transportation Program; Build Kansas

PROJECT SCOPE
K-32 Tri - City Plan, a goDotte Priority corridor, combines multiple ongoing projects that address deferred maintenance, increased resilience, and improve connections between western Wyandotte and KCK. As K-32/Kaw Drive/Kansas Ave moves east from Bonner Springs, it begins to connect with the Levee betterment work, which will provide resiliency for the community, particularly in Armourdale. And as it reaches Downtown KCK, this corridor then connects to riverfront trails such as the Riverfront Heritage Trail and the NE KCK Heritage Trail.

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The last project, this is also a new one but something that we've heard from the community. We know that our K-32 Corridor needs a lot of infrastructure improvements. So, we've added this one to the list as well and identified some funding for that. That also aligns really well with the Levy Betterment Project, those two coincide terms of upgrading the streets for vehicles and then having that kind of off-street recreational component.

2024 INTER-DEPARTMENTAL GRANT PROPOSAL

Collaborate | Maximize Every Dollar

- PROJECT C** Countywide Deficient Watershed Betterment
- PROJECT E** Regional Public Safety Training Facility & Community Center
- PROJECT F** Countywide Weatherization Program
- PROJECT K** Citywide Fleet Electrification Pilot Project
- PROJECT L** Planning, Design and Construction for Parks & Community Centers
- PROJECT N** Landlord Risk Mitigation Fund
- PROJECT M** K-32 Corridor Improvements
- PROJECT I** Urban Heat Island Strategy Implementation
- PROJECT A** Levee Betterment Project
- PROJECT H** Microtransit and Other Rideshare Programs
- PROJECT D** Northeast Watershed Betterment & Heritage Trail Implementation
- PROJECT G** Kansas and Central Avenue Bridges
- PROJECT B** East-West Transit Study Phase II
- PROJECT J** Rainbow Boulevard Implementation

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This is kind of in totality a visualization of all the projects that we're proposing. I will just add that when we started this group, I think we had about 8 departments and the Board of Public Utilities. We're now up to 13 departments and the Board of Public Utilities. We're continuing to kind of

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break down those departmental silos and see how we can collaborate and work together. Any questions?

Commissioner Burns said who puts those in order of priority? **Ms. Marcy** said these are not an order of priority. These are the projects we've pulled from many, many lists. So, like what you had seen the A through M or whatever, that's not in any particular priority order. These are all the priorities for like the hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of projects. **Commissioner Burns** said okay so no one individual does that? **Ms. Marcy** said no this—where all of these came from was things like all of our planning documents, the Capital Improvement Plan that Public Works puts together. Just last year when we heard that we needed Central Avenue Bridge improvements from the public when they had that special session that came from there as well. Mostly these are coming from things that have been identified by the community through planning processes, or they've been identified in strategic plans developed by the department and leadership.

Commissioner Burns said well the Central Avenue wasn't even in for the projects until late November of last year and that was only because of Representative Pam Curtis and the neighborhoods of Strawberry Hill, Russian Hill and Polish Hill saying to us or the old UG Commission, we need this. My question is why wasn't the Planning Department or the Public Works Department, why didn't they start right away when they knew money was available for the restoration of that bridge and they failed to do so.

Ms. Marcy said my understanding is that when we put Kansas Avenue Bridge on there, it was that it would not be quite as high of a capital cost than entirely replacing the Central Avenue Bridge. Again, I think the point in doing this every year is that we come back to standing committees like this and that we go to the public and we make changes as they are needed because the reality is that things change all the time and we need to be able to adjust to what our leadership wants into what our community wants.

Commissioner Burns said well I get that the Kansas Avenue Bridge is important, but the Central Avenue Bridge is just as important from our friends in Kansas City, Missouri that want to come across, but they can't, they got to go around and around just to get here. So, I would think that would be a priority and to go after grants that can help. My understanding through Representative Curtis is that that there is money out there both on the state and federal level and that if we don't apply for it in every way that we can, we're not going to get it. I would hope that

the I guess the Public Works Director would make that a priority because the World Cup's coming here and if we got a bunch of barricades that we can't get over here, then you know, it's just not right. **Ms. Marcy** said yeah, I understand I think that's why we also post that meeting with Pam Curtis, that public meeting why this was fast-tracked and we applied for the grant in February for the Central Avenue Bridge, so it is in motion.

Chairman Burroughs said any other comments questions?

Commissioner Lopez said what is KCMO, are they going to throw us some money for the Kansas Avenue Bridge that goes across to their city? **Ms. Marcy** said that's a good question. I'll have to follow up with Public Works for that. Like I said, we did apply for that MegaInfra Grant, but I'm not sure if that included them.

Chairman Burroughs said Commissioner Lopez, it's been stated that we've been awarded 3.5M from Sharice Davids and our other Congressman Jake LaTurner. There were three of them involved to ensure that we got that. Missouri's participation, that bridge is jointly owned I guess by both Missouri and Kansas where they meet and so it's going to take funds from both sides. I'm to understand that Missouri is a little further along than what we are in Kansas but that our Congressional Delegation is doing what they can to continue to assist. That was the latest that I got last Wednesday. If that's any different, Alan you've been to Topeka too. Okay, very good.

Central Avenue Bridge had it not been for the Commission carving out that additional opportunity for seeking grants, we would have probably lost the opportunity to come back and reopen Central Avenue Bridge. The Commission took action I guess a month ago, two months ago in which to make it a multimodal roadway to allow our delegation in Topeka to pursue not only state grants but federal grants through our Congressional leaders also. That helps us keep that Central Avenue Bridge viable and hopefully we can get the resources necessary to open it. Any other questions or comments? I have a few. I just want to state this missed opportunities the very first thing right off of the bat. And some of the things that—are we going after the no match grants a little more aggressively than we are the 20% match?

Ms. Marcy said we are trying to prioritize those. However, the caveat is we're still looking at the 20% match grants but then leveraging that Build Kansas Fund or those other opportunities,

so they essentially become no match grants if that make sense. **Chairman Burroughs** said yes, it does. I just wanted to ensure that the fact that we had right there it says missed opportunities, then no match grants. If there was an opportunity to grab those quickly and start those programs.

The next one I have is Project F. Let me go back and look at Project F, I'm sorry I made some notes as we were going through here. The Countywide Weatherization Program didn't we—we had a program in place a few years back, weatherization program, I think the state funded that program for a while, then legislature stopped funding on that. Do we know if those organizations that are out there that were providing those services are still in existence or licensed so that if should we get these grants that we can step up and step right in right away.

Ms. Marcy said yeah, and we've tried to be—so ECKAN might be the program that you're thinking of. We technically are still supposed to be serviced by that program, and they have not as much as we have thought. So that is why we're pursuing other options and BPU is doing that on their own as well. Then we're also looking at bolstering the other programs that we have because we know we don't get enough money.

Chairman Burroughs said Project G, that was the Central Avenue Bridge. We already touched on that. The only other question I had, where are we on seeking the grants for the Biosolids? I believe in one of the reviews that we had there was a \$40M potential for grants for the Biosolid Program, do we know if we're still pursuing the grants on that to lower the cost of the overall cost of the Biosolids Project? **Ms. Marcy** said I will see if any of my Public Works colleagues have that answer. We'll find out for you. **Chairman Burroughs** said okay, that'd be great. I think it's important that if there's projects to move forward, I think there was a much discussion and concern about the amount of the project but the \$40 million makes it a little more palatable and a potential to expedite that project in a more rapid manner. I would hope that through Public Works that they would continue to pursue those dollars for the benefit of the public. That's all the questions and comments I have. Are there any other questions or comments, anybody online?

Ms. Sparks said we do have a hand raised from a member of the public. **Chairman Burroughs** said okay, I will get to that. I guess if there's no other questions from the committee, I'll ask the Clerk if any comments received from the public? **Ms. Sparks** said no comments were received.

Chairman Burroughs said I'll now ask the Clerk if anyone online from the public wishes to make a comment. You will get up to three minutes to make your comment. Please state your name and residence for the record.

Ms. Sparks said we have online, Beatto-EJ, if you'll identify yourself.

Beatto, Kansas City resident, said I'm with Vacenos KC for Environmental Health. I'm an Environmental Justice Organizer and I just had a question. I see all the funding for certain projects, but I still haven't seen any funding for the Armourdale Stormwater Project, which was something that the community really stressed on back in 2021 during the Armourdale General plan. So, we love to get an update maybe at the next meeting, what's happening with that, what is it that you need maybe to inform a design concept on what this should look like, but we would like an update on that. I think it's due. I mean it's been 2021 we're in 2024 and that nothing has been done yet. Even though the Unified Government went last year also on a whole like a spree around the county to do a master plan, but we've been asking for three or four years and beyond that for some storm water—a stormwater system in Armourdale. I just wanted to raise that.

Then the other one, I guess just since I'm on here and I have a little bit of time, the World Cup, I know it's coming, but I hope that you're not utilizing money that should be going to the community. Meaning the community, the people that are most overburdened and struggling to pay their light bills and water bills and just survive. That you're not using that money to the World Cup and I'll reach out to Sharice Davids as well and Cleaver and them, to make sure that this money is not being utilized to fund things that do not bring a direct benefit to Kansascians.

Chairman Burroughs said madam clerk, is there anyone else? **Ms. Sparks** said there are no other hands raised online. **Chairman Burroughs** said I believe Project C and Project I, dealt with the Armourdale issue. One of them was stormwater and the other one was the heat if I remember correctly for Armourdale Area Master Plan. **Ms. Marcy** said correct, and Beatto I can also reach out to you and give you some more specific information.

Chairman Burroughs said great thank you. Is there anyone appearing in person who would like to address this item. If so, please approach the podium and state your name and residence of record.

You will be given up to three minutes to make your comments. Do we have someone? Make sure the microphone is on Ms. Hicks.

Pamela Hicks, Kansas City resident, said I have a question about what you're talking about today. Specifically, the K5 Corridor has been locked off for quite some time. Is there a timetable on when that will be open off of 18th Street? **Chairman Burroughs** said Ms. Hicks if you would just, please, we're not here to do question and answer. If you have an issue, please bring it forward and we'll try to collectively answer. **Ms. Hicks** said the well I'll just put that out there that I'd like to get an answer about that because it's been closed for quite some time and I just wanted to know the timetable on that. My remarks are about the stormwater fees, which place an additional burden on a population that is breaking under the weight of taxation and service fees. The shock to the financial wellbeing of this community has been extreme over the last few years. Those in the low and moderate income range in the community are still reeling from the pandemic inflation, high housing, and food cost. This community has reached its breaking point, yet our government officials refuse to acknowledge the financial pressures and continue to seek to impose taxes, fees, and charges without seeming concern for the community's wellbeing.

An added insult, the new Pilot Program with Waste Management is another example of decisions being made that do not reflect the focus on this community's wellbeing. There are two issues with this plan, first the current contract with Waste Management formally known as Deffenbaugh is still in effect for another eight years. Waste Management wants to change the terms of his contract to capitalize, in their words of their representative Mr. Blessing. The goal is to create more efficiency and more profit for the company. No mention was made by him of how this would benefit the community nor the UG in reducing the cost we pay for service. Instead, when asked about community compliance with a new program which includes a reduction in service with a bi-weekly schedule for recyclables, he stated that non-compliance should be met by a personal visit from the Public Works personnel to the offenders' home to instruct them on compliance and then institute a fine for future non-compliance. **Ms. Sparks** said one minute remaining. **Ms. Hicks** said what made this particularly honourous was that Mr. Blessing was a voting member of that committee. When asked by me if he lived in Wyandotte County, he replied no. When I asked why are you on the committee, he replied I was placed on it by the Mayor. This illustrates the concern that many in the community have about decisions that affect our

pocketbooks. Decisions are being made by people who don't live here, don't pay taxes and fees here and who as in this case have a direct conflict of interest and instead vote not for the community but for their own business interest and can care less about the impact on the people of the community. I wanted to share that with you all because you're all a part of that process and the community is waiting and asking for some relief. All these projects that we have here today cost major money. I see that there may be some potential funding but nonetheless we want to make sure that you remember the community is already strapped. If you're going to do bonds or any of those other IRBs or whatever that you might want to do with any of those projects, which I did not see up there. I want to acknowledge that. **Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired. **Ms. Hicks** said I want to make sure that we are heard by you as a community.

Chairman Burroughs said thank you Ms. Hicks. Is there anyone else care to speak to this issue. Please state your name and address and you'll have three minutes for your comments.

Louise Lynch, Kansas City resident, said thank you for talking about the recording. When we were at the last storm waste management meeting, that recording is still not been put up, can we know why. It has not been put up since then when we addressed many issues. I find that very disrespectful to the community. Those that were here and those that were wanting to know what happened at that meeting. That is not right. The other thing I did want to talk about the wastewater, stormwater, and all the other fees that are going on that yes, I believe are ridiculous, as I don't see the reason for them. There are other ways we can cut funds besides raising them and to attach them to our utility bills is absurd. Putting people at-risk for their lives when they can't afford those fees in full and risk in having the utilities cut off is wrong. But there are other ways that I'd, you know, like to know. We have all these grants and everything and I know that the Public Works Director, Jeff Fisher, has been violating the—I can't remember what's that called, the Hatch Act in regards to the way he's been threatening and stalking and cursing and doing all kinds of things in public. Taking things from these meetings and putting them out on the public and putting people's lives at risk. I expect to get an answer as to what we are doing with that. I know you can't give it here, but it is wrong.

We just had to get a \$2M lawsuit last week because of the discrimination practices of Mr. Fisher. That's \$2M could been put towards these fees. There are 46 discrimination lawsuits on the

books against the UG that does not include the KCKPD or (inaudible) or any of that sort. There is lots of money that we can gather instead of paying lawsuits and the firms that we have to hire because even though we have 27 attorneys, they can't defend. So, we are paying outrageous amounts out of taxpayer dollars. **Ms. Sparks** said one minute remaining. **Ms. Lynch** said I would hope that you would go after some of those fees. Go after some of those and if the Administrator can't do his job, then he should be fired as well. I believe they both should be terminated and we could save lots of money. Thank you.

Chairman Burroughs said is there anyone else present who cares to speak to this item. Let the record show nobody else step forward. Committee this is our last action item of the evening. Madam clerk we have a motion and a second and I'm assuming that's for approval. Clerk, please call roll.

Ms. Sparks said could I clarify who did the second please. **Commissioner Lopez** said Commissioner Lopez.

Action: **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lopez, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were six "Ayes" Henry, Lopez, Burns, Stites, Kane, Burroughs.

Public Agenda

Adjourn

Chairman Burroughs said thank you committee, that concludes our meeting for this evening. I would entertain a motion to adjourn. Clerk, please call roll.

Action: **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Burns, to adjourn.** Roll call was taken and there were six "Ayes" Henry, Lopez, Burns, Stites, Kane, Burroughs.

Chairman Burroughs said the committee of Public Works & Safety meeting is now adjourned. As a reminder the Administration & Human Services Standing Committee has been canceled for this evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:39 PM.

BM