

Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas



Public Works and Safety Meeting

5th Floor Conference Room

701 N. 7th Street Trafficway, Kansas City, KS 66101

Commissioner Tom Burroughs, Chair

Commissioner Mike Kane – Commissioner Chuck Stites –

Commissioner Bill Burns – Commissioner Phil Lopez –

BPU Board Member Mary Gonzales

MINUTES

Monday, August 25, 2025

5:00 PM-5:54 PM

Attendance:

Committee Members Present:

- Commissioner Burroughs (Chair)
- Commissioner Kane
- Commissioner Lopez
- Commissioner Stites
- Commissioner Burns
- Ms. Gonzales (BPU Board Member)

Committee Members Absent:

- None

Staff Present:

- Brittnie MacDonald (Unified Government Clerk's Office)
- Alan Howze (Interim Assistant County Administrator)
- Sheri Courtney (Legal Attorney)
- Sarah Shafer (Public Works Department)
- Kris Finger (Traffic Engineer, Public Works Department)

Call to Order:

Commissioner Burroughs called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Revisions to Agenda:

No revisions to the agenda were reported.

Approval of Previous Minutes: (Discussion Begins: 2:01)

Commissioner Burns moved to approve the minutes from the June 24, 2024, meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kane.

Vote: Motion carried 6-0

- Ayes: Gonzales, Lopez, Burns, Stites, Kane, Burroughs
- Nays: None
- Absent: None

Committee Agenda:**Item 1: RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT FOR A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (Discussion Begins: 2:34)**

Sheri Courtney from the Legal Department presented a request for approval of a renewal agreement for the Wyandotte County Sheriff's Office to provide a school resource officer at Bonner Springs, Edwardsville USD 204 schools. The school district will pay the Unified Government \$78,777.75 for this SRO. The sheriff's office has provided an SRO for USD 204 for several years. New this year: if the SRO works overtime at the request of the school district, the district will reimburse for overtime. The agreement has already been approved by USD 204.

The Chairman opened the public hearing. No comments were received. The Chairman closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Stites moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kane.

Vote: Motion carried 6-0

- Ayes: Gonzales, Lopez, Burns, Stites, Kane, Burroughs
- Nays: None
- Absent: None

Item 2: RESOLUTION: GOOGLE WATER EFFICIENCY AND QUALITY PROJECT GRANT (Discussion Begins: 5:13)

Sarah Shafer, Public Works Department, presented a resolution for approval of the application and receipt of the Google Water Efficiency and Quality Project grant for the Esplanade watershed. The grant would support a stormwater model to identify three locations for stormwater management facilities and fund the construction of those facilities. These would be capacity building storm water facilities to mitigate downstream effects into the CSO. The project does not meet consent decree requirements, but will significantly reduce the monetary impact for future consent decree projects.

The Chairman opened the public hearing. No comments were received. The Chairman closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Burns moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kane.

Vote: Motion carried 6-0

- Ayes: Gonzales, Lopez, Burns, Stites, Kane, Burroughs
- Nays: None
- Absent: None

Item 3: ORDINANCE: EMINENT DOMAIN FOR 55TH & METROPOLITAN INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS (Discussion Begins: 12:24)

Kris Finger, Public Works Department, presented approval of an ordinance regarding condemnation proceedings to keep on track with KDOT's grant schedule for the intersection improvement project. Standard operating procedure to move forward with KDOT timeline. Two properties are already under negotiation, with continuing negotiations for temporary easements and new right-of-way related to construction.

The Chairman opened the public hearing. No comments were received. The Chairman closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Kane moved to approve the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burns.

Vote: Motion carried 6-0

- Ayes: Gonzales, Lopez, Burns, Stites, Kane, Burroughs
- Nays: None
- Absent: None

Item 4: PRESENTATION: SAFE STREETS FOR ALL (SS4A) VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN (Discussion Begins: 18:06)

Sarah Shafer, Public Works, introduced the presentation. Anthony Gallo from Kimley Horn, the consultant project manager for the Vision Zero plan, provided a comprehensive presentation on the Safe Streets for All program.

Key points:

Crash Statistics (County-wide)

- Approximately 40,000 crashes over the past 10 years
- 10,000 involving possible injury or worse
- Just over 1,000 per year fatal or disabling injury crashes
- More than 500 crashes involving pedestrians or cyclists over 10 years (about one per week)

Seven Major Focus Areas for Fatalities and Serious Injuries:

1. Roadway departure crashes (42% of fatalities/serious injuries vs. 43% statewide)
2. Intersection crashes
3. Speeding crashes
4. Vulnerable road users (pedestrians/cyclists)
5. Unrestrained occupants
6. Impaired driving
7. Young/older drivers

High-Risk Locations:

- State Avenue from 29th to 38th Street (highest scoring segment fatalities)
- Multiple intersections along 10th Street (10th & Central, 10th & Kansas, 10th & State)
- Multiple intersections along State Avenue (18th & State, 10th & State)

Draft Vision, Mission, and Goals:

- **Vision:** Eliminate fatalities and serious injuries on county roads by 2050 through strategies providing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all

- **Mission:** UG and partner cities are committed to eliminating traffic-related deaths and serious injuries through data-driven policies prioritizing human life and safety
- **Goals:** Six goals focusing on pedestrian/cyclist safety, reducing deaths/injuries, improving school zone safety, community education, partnerships, and designing roads that prioritize safety over speed

This item was for information only, and no action was required.

Public Appearance

Item No. 1 - APPEARANCE: KEVIN DRUM (Comment Begins: 43:28)

Mr. Drum presented extensive documentation regarding multiple unreported landfills in his area.

Key Concerns Raised:

- Wood chip landfill issue from years past never fully resolved
- Six additional landfills discovered in 2024, never reported to KDHE or county databases
- Properties around landfills are not properly appraised with negative environmental impacts
- Fly ash dump at 26th and Ridge containing 230-400 million pounds of material
- National Guard armory identified as superfund site
- All locations are on the same water table with contamination flowing to the Kansas River

Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to allow Mr. Drum to present for 3 more minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez.

No formal action was taken on this item.

Adjournment: (Discussion Begins: 53:42)

Commissioner Burns moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stites.

Vote: Motion carried 6-0

- Ayes: Gonzales, Lopez, Burns, Stites, Kane, Burroughs
- Nays: None
- Absent: None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 PM.

MLS