

**PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY  
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Monday, October 25, 2021**

The meeting of the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee was held on Monday, October 25, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., via Zoom or on-site. The following members were present: Commissioner Bynum, Chairman; Commissioners Markley, Ramirez, Kane, and Philbrook. The following officials were also in attendance: Emerick Cross and Melissa Sieben, Assistant County Administrators; Susan Alig and Henry Couchman, Senior Attorneys; Jeff Conway, Assistant Counsel; Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer; Ashley Hand, Director of Strategic Communication; Wendy Medina, Program Supervisor of KCKPD Victim Services; Jack Andrade, First Deputy Fire Chief; Sarah White, Public Works Project Manager; Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works; Alley Porter, Commission Liaison; Carol Godsil, Deputy UG Clerk; Monica Sparks and Allie Facio, UG Clerk's Office; Sharon Reed, Director of Procurement & Contract Compliance; Richard Rocha, Purchasing; Scott Schaunaman, Fire Department Battalion Chief of Training; Brent Smith, Fire Department Assistant Chief of Logistics; Diana Jimenez, Public Works Office Manager; Dave Reno, Public Works Community Engagement Officer; Jeff Miles, Fleet Manager; Jonathan Wiles, Public Works Stormwater Project Manager; Joe Barnes, Public Works Water Pollution Control Project Manager; Jonathan Gutierrez, Public Works Solid Waste Program Manager; Sam Herr, Public Works Fiscal Officer; Rob Anderson, Public Works Asset Manager; Vince Billaci, Streets Manager; and Troy Shaw, County Engineer.

**Chairman Bynum** said before I call the meeting to order, I want to announce that due to COVID-19, some committee members, staff and public are attending remotely by Zoom, as well as some on site. All participants joining remotely should mute their phones or computers when not speaking to avoid background noise.

During the meeting, make sure you announce yourself by name and title when you speak so the public knows who is speaking. This is critical given the number of remote participants and it's also current guidance from our Kansas Attorney General.

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 the meeting. The public may also indicate their intent to provide remote public comment by contacting our Clerk's Office by 5 p.m.

the Thursday before our meeting. The public also has an opportunity to provide brief comments, either by phone or Zoom, from the lobby of our Municipal Office Building.

**Chairman Bynum** called the meeting to order.

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

**Chairman Bynum** said, we do not have revisions to our agenda tonight, and our first order of business is—we do have minutes to approve from two meetings, July 26 and August 23.

**Action:**        **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ramirez, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were six “Ayes,” Groneman, Philbrook, Kane, Ramirez, Markley, Bynum.

Committee Agenda:

**Item No. 1 – 211091...ORDINANCE: RESPONSIBLE BIDDER ORDINANCE  
AMENDMENT**

**Synopsis:** An ordinance amending the definition of “Responsible Bidder” that would enable the Unified Government to adopt an SOP that would require OSHA-10 certification and a drug and alcohol abuse prevention program for certain construction contracts, submitted by Susan Alig, Assistant Counsel. There is no budget impact.

**Susan Alig, Senior Attorney**, said, this item is a simple change to the way that our code defines responsible bidder, simply to add the word safety to the ordinance. That would permit the Unified Government to adopt a standard operating procedure that would require that vertical construction contracts worth more than \$325,000 include a policy to prevent drug and alcohol abuse on site, and also require that on-site workers have obtained their OSHA-10 cards—which is just a certification that they’ve received ten hours of safety training.

This is supported by the Greater Kansas City Building and Construction Trades Council, and we have Joe Hudson here from the Carpenters Regional Council to answer questions you may have. We also have Sharon Reed and Richard Rocha from UG Purchasing to answer questions that you have in terms of how this will function.

**Chairman Bynum** said, thank you very much. First of all, thank you, Joe, for taking time to be here with us tonight on this item. My question is for staff. I read this item on the agenda, but I want to clarify, this would be for a project that the Unified Government would let. Is that correct?

**Ms. Alig** said, that's correct, and it applies to sealed bids.

**Chairman Bynum** asked, what other questions or comments do we have? Mr. Hudson, I would give you the floor if you wanted to make any comments, but let's first check with our committee.

**Commissioner Kane** said, they've been working on this for a heck of a long time, and it simplifies our process and makes it better for us.

**Chairman Bynum** said, thank you, Commissioner. Other comments from the committee members? If not, Joe Hudson, I would let you unmute and make any comments you like, please.

**Joe Hudson, Carpenters Regional Council**, said, very simply, this adds a little bit of a safety standard for workforce that would work on Unified Government projects as well as an 11-panel drug test just to make sure folks aren't using drugs and alcohol on the worksites. We think it's a simple ask that the contractors who work for the Unified Government have safe and drug-free workers. It's as simple as that.

We also were, through the discussions, very conscious of smaller contractors. In particular, M & WBE contractors. That's one of the reasons why we came up with the \$325,000 floor for the bid process, so this would only affect projects that would hit that \$325,000-plus for vertical construction.

**Chairman Bynum** asked, any questions for Mr. Hudson or anybody else on this item? Is there anyone else attending that would like to make any comment? I don't see any. Madam Clerk, did we have any comments from the public? **Allie Facio, UG Clerk's Office**, said, no comments were received.

**Action:** Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to approve. Roll call was taken and there were six “Ayes,” Groneman, Philbrook, Kane, Ramirez, Markley, Bynum.

## **Item No. 2 – 211094...GRANT: PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING FACILITY**

**Synopsis:** Request to apply for an EDA Grant for a public safety training facility, submitted by Jack Andrade, First Deputy Fire Chief.

**Jack Andrade, First Deputy Fire Chief,** said, with me, I have Scott Schaunaman, Battalion Chief of Training; Brent Smith, Assistant Chief of Logistics; I have Erica Hupka and Jeff Stevens from iParametrics. They helped us with the grant that we call Collider for Intelligent and Resilient Communities.



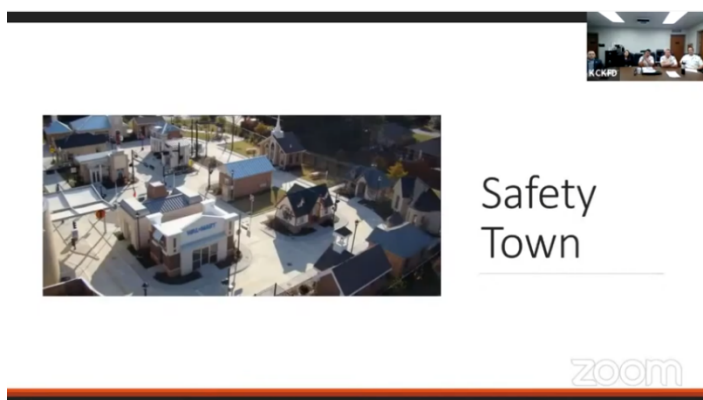
This first started back in 2018 when we realized that we needed to figure out a way to get our training division out of the basement. What we started doing is looking at Oklahoma and Colorado at the facilities that they have. We partnered up with Kansas City, Kansas Police Department and we went to those two states and realized that we were deficient in several areas. Not only in KCK, but in the region. So, we started looking over and researching other facilities over the nation and realized that there are some key components that were missing.

One is a training administration center that holds an auditorium and classrooms for large groups of people. Inside that facility, we would also have administration offices. Other components would be skid pads, driving track for PD, burn buildings, and situational and practical buildings for both Fire and Police departments.



Here we have a site plan. In the middle-left side of the slide, you have a training administration building that is approximately 100,000 square feet. We also, along with the rest of the site plan, involve all the discipline that the Fire Department trains on, but we do not have adequate space or props to do so.

If you look along that picture, you have swift water rescue at the top. Right below it is K-9 facilities and training center. You have confined space, trench rescue, railroad cars. We have the second largest railroad depot in the nation, so we need somewhere to be able to handle those types of emergencies. Just below that are strip malls and a shooting range, indoor and outdoor, for the Police Department. At the very bottom of the page, you have safety town, which is for our community.



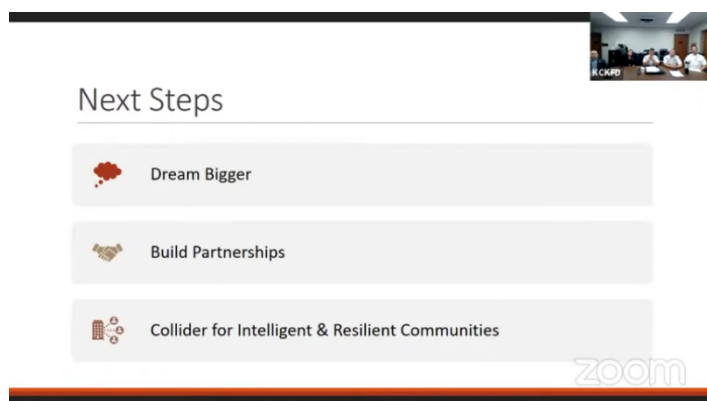
If we start talking about safety town, this building is—we envision that all school districts in the metro will utilize this facility. This will help assist the school children to learn about life safety, training, and education. This mock town for kids could bring bicycle safety, crosswalk safety, fire safety, railroad safety, self-defense classes, along with technology—drones and robotics, and

information for school-age kids and college kids on trades. So, mechanical, electrical, technology, and so on and so forth. We will also teach first aid and stop, drop, and roll classes at this facility.



As we started looking at this vision prior to the Build Back Better grant, we realized it was going to bring—we were needing money. We looked at other grants, but nothing really fit until the Economic Development administration put together a grant that they released about two months ago. It's called Build Back Better Regional Challenge. It was a grant so that we would bring the underserved and underemployed communities to lead them to more jobs. So, what better way to do that by posing a training facility based on education?

There's two phases to this grant. The first phase, we submitted October 19, 2021. It was to try to receive \$500,000 to help us with the technical assistance funds to develop and support the projects that are in this grant. The second phase, which is due March 15, could bring up to \$100M to implement those projects.



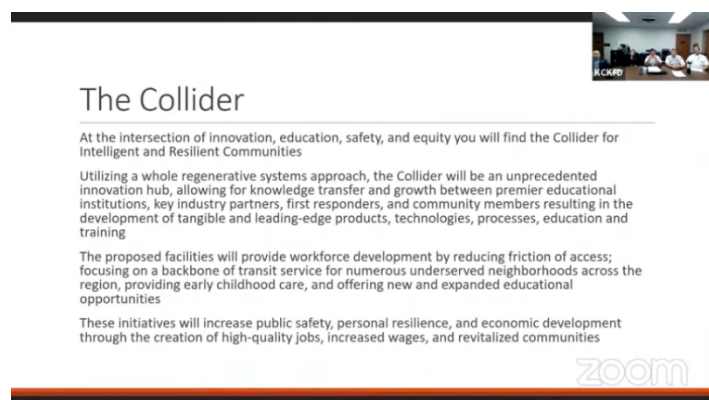
What we realized, as we started going through this grant process, is that building partnerships and coalitions with members from the community, is that everybody started dreaming bigger. It was

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no longer about the regional training facility for public service, but it was for all communities within Wyandotte County and the region. This was going to help to lead to jobs. One component to help with this is to find a way to get the underserved to come to this educational site.

We met with individuals from the community, and they said we needed a daycare facility. So, at this site, we wrote language to have that type of facility at this place. Technology, we met with KCKCC and UMKC and we realized that we need to try to ramp up the awareness of technology that is developed in the KC Metro area. Transportation is one project, as well that's written in this grant to try to get individuals from the downtown area to that training location. Whether it's to KCKCC, this training hub, or the downtown campus that Kansas City, Kansas Community College is envisioning.

So, we get to the grant piece, which is called the Collider for Intelligent and Resilient Communities.



**The Collider**

At the intersection of innovation, education, safety, and equity you will find the Collider for Intelligent and Resilient Communities

Utilizing a whole regenerative systems approach, the Collider will be an unprecedented innovation hub, allowing for knowledge transfer and growth between premier educational institutions, key industry partners, first responders, and community members resulting in the development of tangible and leading-edge products, technologies, processes, education and training

The proposed facilities will provide workforce development by reducing friction of access; focusing on a backbone of transit service for numerous underserved neighborhoods across the region, providing early childhood care, and offering new and expanded educational opportunities

These initiatives will increase public safety, personal resilience, and economic development through the creation of high-quality jobs, increased wages, and revitalized communities

zoom

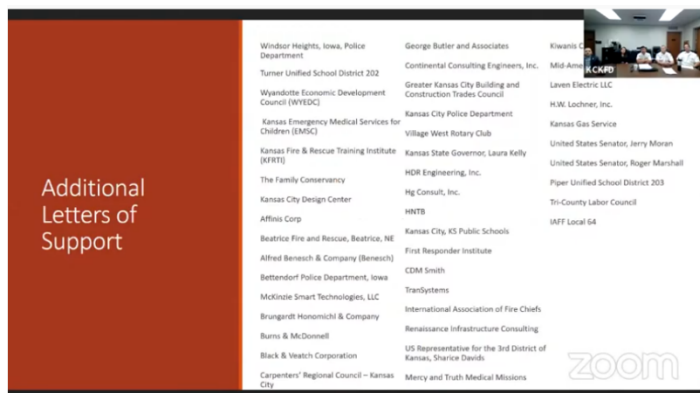
iParametrics has come up with great language that is detailed on the screen in front of you. We can't thank them enough for the work that they've done. Education is the foundation for this grant, and it's going to help lead to jobs, it's going to help the underserved, and it's going to help the unemployed. It's also going to help the trades industries bring individuals to our facility to teach them how to build a home, and it's going to also allow the Fire Department to show them how building construction is done on a house. We can also go ahead and tear that house down and then have them redevelop it next semester.



So, I mentioned coalition partners. It took a lot of individuals to envision this type of work in this grant and these are our coalition members. These individuals will assist us in phase two to define the grant more so for phase two.



These groups on the right-hand side are our industrial leaders. There will be committees that will be formed by members of each one of these groups to help us figure out how this facility is going to be built and what facilities need to be at this hub.



We had several letters of support, and they continue to pour in. There are individuals that are not on here, that's just because we have so many coming in from the four-state area—Iowa, South Dakota, Missouri, and Oklahoma. So, at this time, I'm going to turn it over to the team to see if there's anything that they would like to speak on.

**Brent Smith, Assistant Chief of Support Services**, said, I'll just say that I think this is a big project that's going to help a lot of people out and I'm really excited about it. It's good for public safety. It's going to give us an opportunity to have the training grounds that we need. It's good for the private industries that are going to partner with us; gives them an opportunity to have a place where they can test and market their new equipment. It's good for the community that want to go to school, get a better education, get a good paying job.

Really, it's going to be good for the children, as well, with that safety town. It's going to help bring in the kids from all over the school ages every single year. It's going to bring them to this facility and it's going to help give them a better appreciation. It's going to give them some options and ideas, and hopefully it's going to be a long-term recruiting effort for not only public safety but also the trades industries. The timing's right with this grant that could help facilitate the payment of all this. I think that's just the icing on top of the cake. So, I'm super excited about it, and I think it's going to be a great thing for Wyandotte County.

**Chairman Bynum** said, to the gentleman who just spoke, if you would introduce yourself. Name and title, and then as you all continue to speak, would you introduce yourself, name and title, when you are giving your comments. Thanks.

**Assistant Chief Smith** said, my name is Brent Smith, I'm the Assistant Chief of Support Services.

**Erica Hupka, iParametrics Director of Training and Exercise**, said, the vision that this group brought together to bring this to be a whole community approach to this opportunity is phenomenal and I think this is going to be leading edge, not only for our region, but also for the country. I think that this—if we were able to get this up and off the ground, I think this will be where people will come to see how best practices are made.

**First Deputy Fire Chief Andrade** said, that's all that we have. Are there any questions?

**Chairman Bynum** asked, questions from the committee for the presenters, or comments?

**Commissioner Kane** said, if you go back and just look at the list of the people that have supported this—I worked in safety for 21 years and I had to fly to Michigan on a regular basis to get my training. Travel would be reduced. If you put it in the right spot, you've got transportation, you've got opportunities for the kids, which I've been talking about for a long time. Training, training, training, you never do enough training.

This facility isn't going to be just good for the public works, it's going to be good for the entire community. This will bring hotels, this will bring more job opportunities, this will be a shining star for Wyandotte County. I think it's important that we get behind projects like this. In the 16 and a half years that I've been here, I've never seen that many people on a list support anything. That's a large amount of money and there's no better way, and I've said this all along, we have the best workforce in Wyandotte County than you can possibly imagine and why not bring more people, add more jobs, and provide jobs for people that don't have them?

**Chairman Bynum** said, very well said, Commissioner Kane. I appreciate that.

**Commissioner Ramirez** said, to second the words of Commissioner Kane, when I met with Jack Andrade and the team about this project beforehand, I was amazed of how many people have come together on this. It's amazing. Since last year, our workforce is changing, and we need to catalyze on that. This is an opportunity to do that.

Going back to what Commissioner Kane said, we have a lot of talent here in Wyandotte County and we need to tap into that. We need to hone into it. So, thank you, Deputy Chief, for everything you and your team, everything, and all of the partners who have come together on this. This is what happens when Wyandotte County comes together. When we actually sit down at the table together and work and be passionate about it, this is what can happen. So, I'm very happy that this has happened, and I look forward to seeing this project go to the next step.

**Action:** Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to approve.

**Chairman Bynum** said, a comment and a question. First of all, sincere thanks to everyone. All of the partners and everyone with the UG, it was a very heavy lift to pull this grant together. I think I can speak on behalf of the entire committee when I say thank you to each and every individual on staff who had a hand in making sure this was submitted on time.

The question is the approval that we are giving. Is it for us to move forward in round two as well as this initial round one, or will we need to come back to this body once we make it into the round two category?

**Melissa Sieben, Assistant County Administrator**, said, I would definitely see us coming back on round two simply because there's a lot more that goes into the next phase, that's a planning phase. So, there's a lot more that is going to be happening that we absolutely would want to share with you. Jack's team, as well as the other coalition partners would definitely be wanting to share what we're submitting.

**Chairman Bynum** asked, and that deadline is March 15, so I'm going to imagine that you would make your way back to this committee sometime in February. At our February meeting, I imagine. No further comments. Are there any comments from the public, Madam Clerk?

**Ms. Sieben** said, I just wanted to, Commissioner Bynum, make a quick clarification. We're submitting this, and only if we're approved will there be a March timeline. I guess when we're approved.

**Chairman Bynum** said, correct. That's why—I'm manifesting. Madam Clerk, are there any comments from the public on the item? **Allie Facio, UG Clerk's Office**, said, no comments were received.

Roll call was taken and there were six "Ayes," Groneman, Philbrook, Kane, Ramirez, Markley, Bynum.

**Item No. 3 – 211086...REQUEST: GRANT FUNDED PROGRAM COORDINATOR POSITION**

**Synopsis:** Request approval to create a grant funded Program Coordinator position in the Police Department Victim Services Unit, submitted by Wendy Medina, Program Supervisor of KCKPD Victim Services.

**Wendy Medina, Program Supervisor of KCKPD Victim Services,** said, we are here today to request approval to create a new position within our unit for a Program Coordinator to lead a project that we are piloting here in our city. So, the Kansas Office of the Governor received a federal grant called Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking awarded by the federal office on Violence Against Women. The Kansas Governor's Grants Office—I'm going to call it the KGGP for short—is the primary fiscal and programmatic agent for the grant project. They received this fund and they've chosen our community where they're going to implement this project.

So, the intent of it is to build a statewide framework that enhances capacity and informs the criminal justice system in the state of Kansas aiming to enhance response to high-risk offenders and high-risk groups.

The project team members so far are comprised of the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department, the Wyandotte County District Attorney's Office, the Municipal Court, the Order Protection Judge, the Municipal Prosecutor Judge, our area domestic violence shelter Friends of Yates, and other community agencies that work with victims of domestic violence and abusers. All of these folks have already come to the table and are on board in collaborating on this project and we've signed an MOU, all of the leadership and the agencies that I mentioned have come together and agreed.

Basically, what we're going to be doing in our city, or wanting to, is implement a lethality assessment program so that when officers are responding to domestic violence and sexual assault and stalking type calls, not only are they doing their reports as usual, but they implement this additional lethality assessment which is essentially a list of questions, maybe 10 or 11, that will assess the risk of a domestic violence victim. If they score high, then it would trigger the response team, all these people that I just named, so that the victim can receive supportive services sooner than later.

This is something that, like I said, the KGGP has funding for and because they've chosen our community as a pilot, the pilot community are willing to invest up to \$96,000 in a Program Coordinator position. We think it would be ideal for it to come from the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department just because we already have a victim services unit in place. Additionally, we also want to hire a response advocate, but Friends of Yates, the domestic violence shelter, they are taking the lead on creating that position over there.

I think it would be strategic if we, at the Police Department, can create this new position that's going to be 100% grant funded through the KGGP's office. Very similar to the VOCA grant that I come before you every year about where the positions are grant funded and they reimburse that position. That helps with all the supplies, all the travel and training, and we have approval and support from our Chief and from all the members of this response team that we want to create. Of course, before we move forward with trying to create the position, we would request your approval.

**Chairman Bynum** said, thank you, Ms. Medina. I really appreciate the explanation. Are there questions or comments from the committee members? Anyone have a question or comment?

I do have one question. The position, would that be a person who is employed by the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department?

**Ms. Medina** said, yes, ma'am.

**Chairman Bynum** said, the duration, I see in our packet, looks to be through September of '22. Is that correct?

**Ms. Medina** said, yes, that's correct. The goal is that once we implement this pilot program, if we want to continue it, there might be opportunities to keep that position on. Whether it be through additional grants from the KGGP, or even by requesting it to our VOCA grant. So, there's opportunity for keeping it and transitioning it out of this pilot program.

**Chairman Bynum** said, thank you very much. Other questions or a motion?

**Action:**        **Commissioner Markley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ramirez, to approve.**

**Chairman Bynum** said, I'll ask Madam Clerk, did we receive any comments from the public on the item? **Allie Facio, UG Clerk's Office**, said, no comments were received.

Roll call was taken and there were six "Ayes," Groneman, Philbrook, Kane, Ramirez, Markley, Bynum.

#### **Item No. 4 – 211093...OVERVIEW/ REQUEST: LEVEE BETTERMENTS**

**Synopsis:** Work has completed on the design for betterments for the levee trail system, which includes a trail head park on either side of the Rock Island Bridge. Staff will provide an overview of the project and discuss how the expenses to construct these amenities can be handled within the levee projects funds, submitted by Melissa Sieben, Assistant County Administrator.

**Chairman Bynum** said, Melissa, I'm going to start with a question for you. Our agenda indicates it's a voting item. Is that correct?

**Melissa Sieben, Assistant County Administrator**, said, yes, it is.

**Chairman Bynum** said, okay. Thank you. I'll hand the floor to you.



**Ms. Sieben** said, tonight, I also have Sarah White with me, as well. Primarily, we're here tonight because we came in 2019—it's been a while back—where we talked about some betterments that we were going to want to do, which is a core terminology, on this massive \$500M levee project. The goal was to improve our public facilities.

Part of that was our levee pump stations, where in which two of them are Argentine and Strong Avenue stations and Armourdale, where we wanted to basically enhance our capacity to far exceed



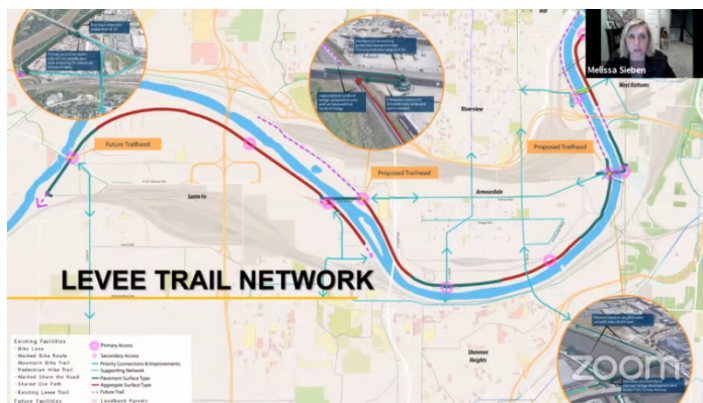
## Already Committed Costs

- Pump Station Upgrades in Argentine and Armourdale to improve stormwater management
- Sluice Gate
- KCK Levee Trails
  - enhanced surface for hike/bike
  - pedestrian gates to allow safe hike/bike

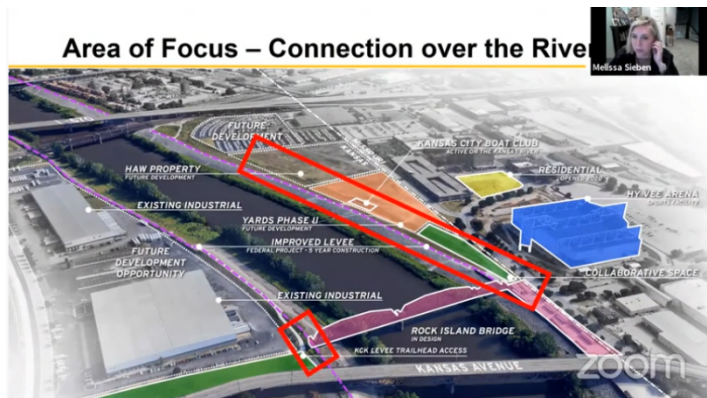
Cost: \$2,971,093.06



So, things that are already committed through this, as I mentioned earlier, are the upgrades to the Armourdale and Argentine pump stations to improve stormwater management behind the levees. Then, a sluice gate which, if anyone's interested in what that is, it's a small dollar value relative to the overall project, about \$100,000, as well as the levee trail enhancements, which are around \$2.7M. So, you can kind of see, just under \$3M for those and the bulk of those costs are at the levee surface trail improvements as well as the gates to keep pedestrians safe and not allow vehicular traffic, which we're currently struggling with.



Again, just our levee trail network as proposed. There's been a multitude of design struts on this, engagement with the Armourdale Master Plan, and just a ton of work to get and solicit feedback.



What we're going to be basically focusing on tonight is the area of focus that we've discussed with you over the last couple of months around the area where the Yards II project tier is—which is kind of the orange-ish color, the green color, and on the north side, this Haw future development property, as well as on what we consider the west side at the base of the bridge here where we would have a trail connection. Any questions so far on what I'm going to be talking about?

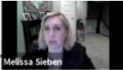
### Rock Island Bridge Connection for Levee Trail

- 17 miles of levee trail and connect to Rock Island Bridge Crossing
  - \$2,700,000 -17 miles trail surface improvements and security gates
  - \$1,214,052 -connection to bridge river crossing per development agreement with Rock Island Bridge
  - \$1,314,480 public park with trail and base plantings – East side of Kansas River
- Total \$2,861,385\*

\*limited scope of work for public park on east side

So, basically, what we're seeking approval for tonight, in addition to what we already have committed on the levee betterments of the 17 miles of trail surface and security gates, are the second two items that are underlined which are the connectors that we need up to the bridge to be able to cross the river. I'm referring to the Rock Island Bridge, and that is \$1.2M and that is part of our development agreement on the Rock Island Bridge.

Then also, just the commitment for the earthen work and base plantings for the public park that would be on that east side that I pointed out with Yards II, the Bill Haw property. So, it's a limited scope, this is not full development of everything we may have shown you in pictures. It's simply to get the site grading in place and to get the connections for the trail to exist on both sides of the river.



|                                                   |                 |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Budget Update</b>                              |                 |
| Budget for Betterments                            | \$ 10           |
| <b>Spent</b>                                      |                 |
| PO's                                              | \$ 1,750,000.00 |
| Arm & CID Pump Station Upgrades                   | \$ 1,367,654.00 |
| Strong Avenue Pump Stations Upgrades              | \$ 1,096,252.94 |
| Trails                                            | \$ 2,700,000.00 |
| Sluice Gate                                       | \$ 115,000.00   |
| Remaining Balance                                 | \$ 2,971,093.06 |
| <b>Requested Approval</b>                         |                 |
| Engineering Design                                | \$ 332,853.20   |
| Trail Connection at Rock Island Bridge -East/West | \$ 1,214,052.00 |
| Public trailhead park - East side of Kansas River | \$ 1,314,480.00 |
|                                                   | \$ 2,861,385.20 |
| Difference                                        | \$ 109,707.86   |

This is kind of a schematic of the betterments budget that we submitted for approval back in April of 2019. It was \$10M that we needed, and you kind of can see the drawdowns. The POs are simply things that we've had to pay out to the corps and that's kind of a little bit of a moving target at this point, but for trying to see if there's hazardous waste, things of that nature. Then, the pump station upgrades here at \$1.3M for the Armourdale CID and the \$1M for the Strong Avenue trails and sluice gate.

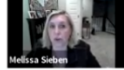
So, when you get through all of that, what we're looking at is a remaining amount that we're requesting in yellow for the public trailhead park and the connection up to the Rock Island Bridge.



Currently, we have shown you quite a bit of information around future improvements, and I wanted to give you kind of an idea of what lies ahead should the governing body choose to move forward with some of this in the future. This is our Armourdale trailhead park that is sitting on the west side there. You can see that we would have some parking and other park-like amenities that would come along with that to connect to the bridge and basically give people a spot to park and then go further westward on the trails.

### Future Riverside Improvements

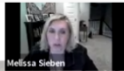
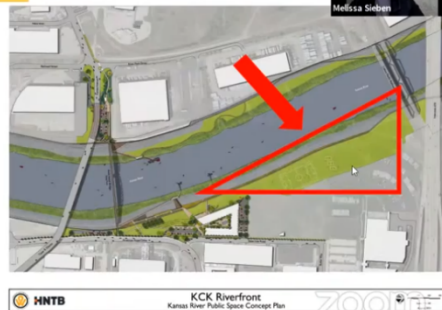
- Improvements on the riverside
  - Stramp
  - Stone seating
  - Boardwalk
  - Amphitheater
- Estimated costs \$6,714,158



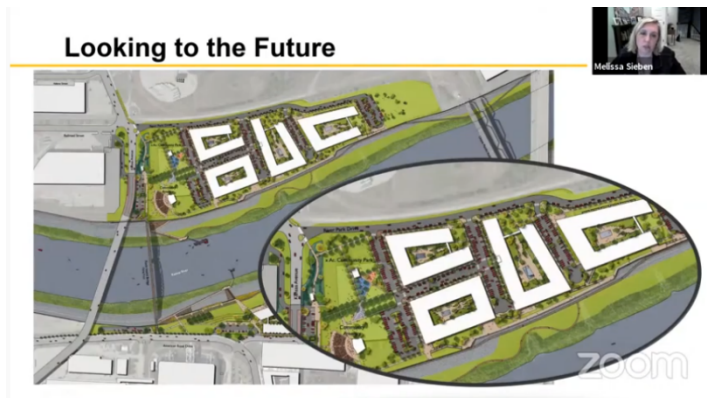
Then, there's another \$6M, almost \$7M in estimated costs to actually improve on the riverside of the levees, which is kind of like this amphitheater-style seating that you could see on either side of the river, as well as kind of access to the water for boat docks and things of that nature. None of that is in the current dollars we're looking to spend.

### Donation by Bill Haw

- Bill Haw has recently committed to donating property along the Kansas River to the Wyandotte County Parks Foundation for a public park along the east side of the Kansas River.



Recently, we have been gifted, or in the process of receiving a gift of property that's here inside the red triangle for the development of the park there along the river. We have tentatively shown the possibility that you could fit a soccer field in there, or other types of things for park amenities; but again, that is not part of the costs that we're asking to have approved tonight.



Lastly, this is just kind of the schematic that we've also seen from the Kansas City Design Center about what could happen in the future on the west side. That's why we're seeking approval on those betterments, for the connection up to the trail, or to the bridge, and for getting the surface in for the public park on the east side. Sarah, is there anything you would like to add?

**Sarah White, Public Works**, said, I think, Melissa, this is all really great. The only thing I would say is, you know, the opportunity is really now for these items because of the levees project and with the opportunity to add these in as a betterment and the cost reduction that we'll get by using the contractor that is out there. Their schedule is set on when they're going to be working here, and this is our opportunity to do those items.

**Ms. Sieben** said, with the contractor kicking off in this area, that does create a need for us to be able to move forward with full design on the connections up to the bridge, as well as, basically, the leveling out for the future public park on the east side.

**Chairman Bynum** said, thank you both for the information and the presentation, Melissa. Are there comments or questions from the committee members?

**Commissioner Markley** said, so, Melissa, can you just talk briefly about how the Rock Island Bridge agreement interacts with this agreement, and what our obligation is under that agreement and how this might aid in that?

**Ms. Sieben** said, well, my understanding, and Sarah probably knows it a slight bit better than me because she worked with it as well, but basically in there we said we would provide the connections up to the bridge. This is nothing on the bridge, it's connections up to the bridge as

part of that agreement and so this is a result of that work that then allows us, regardless of what happens, to be able to use this as a trail crossing in the future.

**Ms. White** said, on both sides of the bridge, there's actually—the walls are being raised. So, this access right now up to the bridge doesn't quite exist, so this is something that we would need to build for any kind of crossing of the bridge with or without the development.

**Chairman Bynum** asked, Commissioner Markley, does that answer your question?

**Commissioner Markley** said, I think so.

**Chairman Bynum** said, comment for Melissa and/or Sarah. It strikes me that what you're describing is an opportunity, basically, for us to capitalize on the more than \$500M levee investment that's occurring. If I heard you correctly in the presentation, the commission, the governing body, authorized the up to \$10M in 2019. You are now requesting use of a portion of that \$10M that's been authorized, am I correct?

**Ms. Sieben** said, yeah, and I would just go ahead and explain it this way. When we did that, we came as a very kind of generic statement of public facilities, knowing that we were looking at a whole bunch of stuff along the river in that area and it was just starting to formulate that we didn't really know. We also knew that we had an opportunity with these pump stations as well. So, we had a general clause in there that Kathleen and her folks, when they did the bond issuance, helped us write about public facility improvements as well as the trail.

So, again, we didn't quite know where we were going to be at the time when we started this three years ago now, which is hard to believe it's been that long. But, when the bill was authorized in 2018, we were kind of caught back because we thought this was a 30-year march that we were on. So, it's been good that we've had access to these funds. We've used them kind of rolling for our property acquisitions, so first we—easements and any takings we had to do. Luckily, we only had to do two which we've updated maybe the full commission on or a committee. I can't remember anymore, but what I can tell you is that it's left us with money to be able to do this kind of work without having to seek any additional dollars that haven't already been allocated.

**Chairman Bynum** said, alright. Thank you very much. Any other questions or comments? If not, I would seek a motion, please.

**Action:** Commissioner Ramirez made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to approve.

**Chairman Bynum** asked, Madam Clerk, is there anyone in the attendees or did you receive any communication on the item? **Allie Facio, UG Clerk's Office**, said, no comments were received.

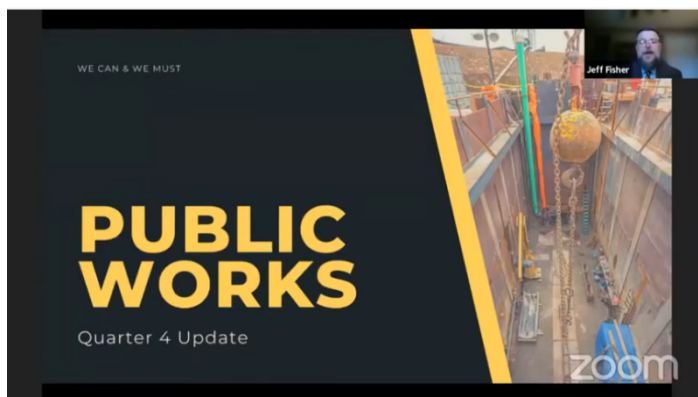
Roll call was taken and there were six "Ayes," Groneman, Philbrook, Kane, Ramirez, Markley, Bynum.

**Chairman Bynum** said, again, another item where I think there's been a ton of heavy lifting, pun intended. So, our sincere thanks to you and everyone that's had a hand in bringing this forward.

**Item No. 5 – 211087...PRESENTATION: PUBLIC WORKS QUARTERLY REPORT**

**Synopsis:** Quarterly update on culture, development, and division updates, such as the Central Ave. Bridge, debris pick-up, and winter weather operations, submitted by Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works. For information only.

**Chairman Bynum** said, I know I'm excited anytime we get to hear from Public Works is a good day.



**Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works**, said, this is a new habit for Public Works. This will be the first night that we will report to you on a quarterly basis for the foreseeable future. As you know, Public Works covers a lot of ground in the organization and in the community, from wastewater to stormwater, engineering, buildings, trash and recycling, fleet, streets, a lot of work

going on in the community. So, per the direction of the County Administrator, Doug Bach, we're going to do this on a quarterly basis. I think it'll have a lot of benefits. It'll be a good opportunity to highlight things that are going on at the time and educate the public.



I think a few of you know how important culture is to the Public Works Department. We spend a lot of time on it, and we spend a lot of time on leadership development. One thing that we wanted to highlight, we recently committed to American Public Works Association's accreditation process. There are only about 200 cities in all of North America that are accredited, so we intend to be one of those. It'll take us a few years to get through the self-assessment process and then APWA will call in the review team and see how we're doing. I expect we'll do well.

We did do something a little bit different and unique, I think, in the world of accreditation and how we identified our team. We requested from everybody in Public Works who had any interest in leading it or having a team approach to the self-assessment and accreditation process to submit applications and resumes. Then, we had a body of teammates meet with those, interview them, and select the one they thought was the best fit and we do have that team identified. Pretty excited about it.

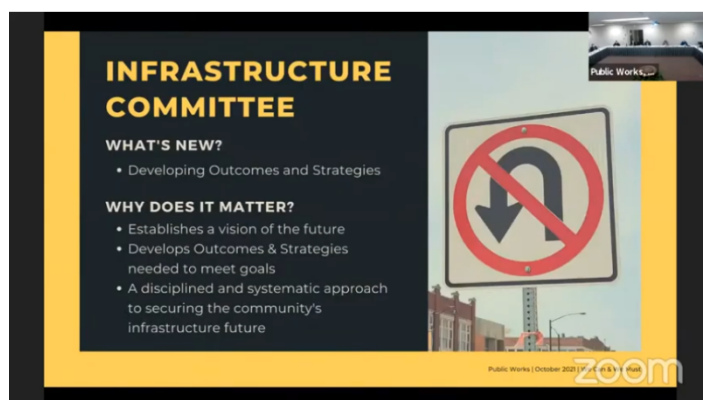
So, we'll start that; we've already started it. Like I said, it'll probably take two to three years to get through that; and I expect to be accredited within that three, three and a half years just because I know our team—they're ready for it.

One of the things, too, that I'm real excited about is our round table, our leadership round tables. Our outstanding office manager, Diana Jimenez, is largely responsible for coordinating those and make sure they go well. They've been very well-received by the team. I'm going to hand that over to Diana.

**Diana Jimenez, Public Works Office Manager**, said, Public Works has held round table sessions to develop leaders at all levels. These sessions are a way to create a special and safe environment for the team to share information and ideas. It's also a way to educate on important topics such as performance reviews, customer service, taking extreme ownership, and the importance of leadership.

**Dave Reno, Public Works Community Engagement Officer**, said, in addition to the programs like the round table, one of the simplest things that we can do to build great teams really, is to recognize our coworkers for their hard work. So, a pat on the back can go a long way to improving culture, and that's exactly what our employee recognition pilot at Water Pollution Control does.

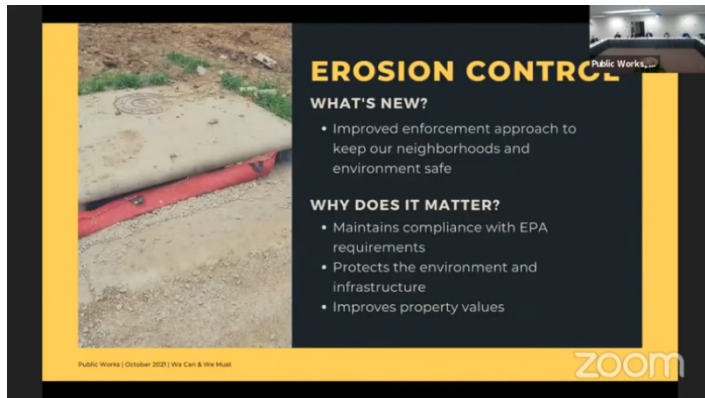
We just kicked this off and it's straightforward. When somebody sees their teammate going above and beyond at their job, or above and beyond for our residents, they can fill out a form and then recognize that individual for their outstanding work. It's a special program in that we haven't done this before and we really do look forward to expanding it across Public Works as we move forward.



**Jeff Miles, Fleet Manager**, said, I'm honored to speak on the Infrastructure Committee, as well as serve on the committee as well. This initiative was suggested by the Mayor. It's broken up into three special subcommittees. The first is street, bridges, and streetlights; the second is parks and buildings; and the third is storm and sewer. Committees include special team members from all divisions of Public Works along with three commissioners, three to four commissioners, on each subcommittee. Our vision is a focus on special outcomes, outputs, and strategies.

Our subcommittees meet once a week and then every two weeks with commissioners. We do appreciate all the commissioners for their dedication to their time and their contributions to these

subcommittees. Tours of our community were done in September, that took it out of the room setting to actually out in our community to see some of these special hurdles that we run into day-to-day.



**Jonathan Wiles, Public Works Project Manager Stormwater Division**, said, as you are aware, in 2021, Public Works staff worked with the governing body to modify and strengthen the Unified Government's Municipal Code Chapter 8 as it pertained to the erosion and sediment control. These modifications and updates provided a triple-point benefit.

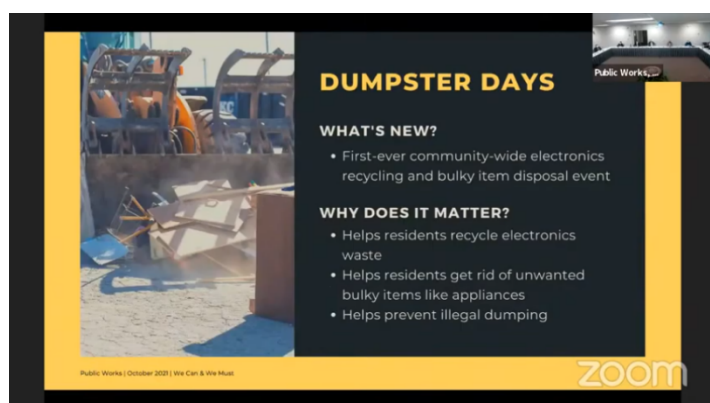
First, it supported a clean and maintained community during development, residential and commercial activities. Second, it partners with developers and builders alike through a special abatement process. This limits the slowing or stopping of the construction process. Third, it meets state and federal requirements related to the Unified Government's municipal Separate Storm sewer system, the NPDES program, the National Pollution Discharge Elimination Permit.



**Joe Barnes, Public Works Project Manager Water Pollution Control**, said, I wanted to give an update on the Wolcott Expansion. So, as part of this expansion, it's comprised of three major

components. One is a new influent pump station, two is a four-mile gravity sewer line to connect to our brand-new wastewater treatment plant, and that's the most special one we wanted to talk about tonight.

This wastewater treatment plant is going to be open in the next 30 days. It's the fifth of its kind in the United States, and it's the first in the state of Kansas to have this aerobic granular sludge technology. So, we're really excited to be in the forefront of technology. This also gives us an opportunity for growth in our western portion of our county and I just want to also mention that we are going to have the ribbon cutting Wednesday at 10:30, so October 27 at 10:30 on-site.



**Jonathan Gutierrez, Public Works Program Manager Solid Waste Division**, said, this evening I want to talk about a special event that we held this past weekend. We refer to as Dumpster Days. It was our first ever community-wide electronics, recycling, and bulky item disposal event and why did this matter? This is an event that allowed our residents to come and get rid of unwanted trash, bulky items, and also allowed our residents to dispose of e-waste, or electronic waste, in a responsible manner. Finally, it allowed our residents to deal with an issue here within Wyandotte County and our region when it comes to illegal dumping.

From this event, I just had a few stats that I wanted to mention from our weekend event. We had 666 visitors to this event. At that event, we filled 20 dumpsters on an average of four tons per dumpster, so a total of 80 tons, or about 160,000 pounds was collected. On our electronic waste, we had 51 pallets that were collected. That included 100 tv's, and an additional electronic waste of about 16,821 pounds or 84 tons that was diverted from going into a landfill.

Then finally at this event, we partnered with a nonprofit group called Avenue of Life. Avenue of Life has a recycling mattress program. It provides jobs to individuals here locally and from this event, we had 7 truckloads of recycled mattresses. On that equivalent of 206 mattresses, or about

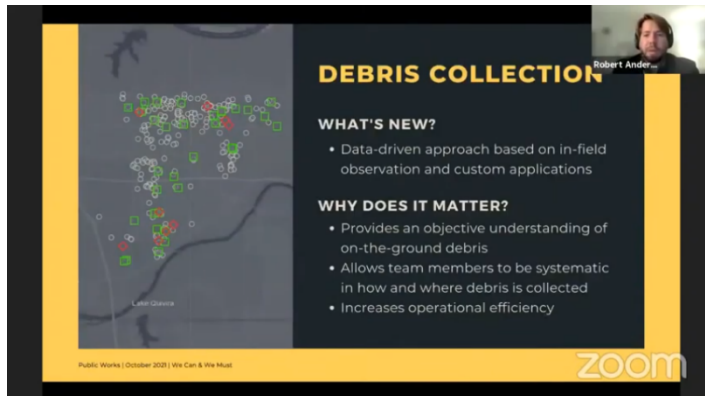
21,000 pounds or 10.5 tons, once again, that didn't go in a landfill. In addition to that, Avenue of Life also provides furnishing to only Wyandotte County residents who they assist in finding homes for the houseless. From that, there was two truckloads of furniture that was donated or able to be repurposed. That was an equivalent of about 2,250 pounds or about one ton. Combined between the mattresses and donations, about 11.6 tons was diverted from the landfill.

Finally, I just want to acknowledge the staff that assisted in this event from Public Works and both our Parks & Rec staff, as well. Without them, we wouldn't have had as special or successful event as we had.



**Sam Herr, Public Works Fiscal Officer**, said, tonight I have the privilege to talk about a new and special way within the Fleet Department. The Fleet Internal Service Fund was developed in 2021. It's accounting that brings accountability to our fleet services. It's not just about how we develop an account for our costs, but it's a way to bring a shift to our culture in the way that we do business.

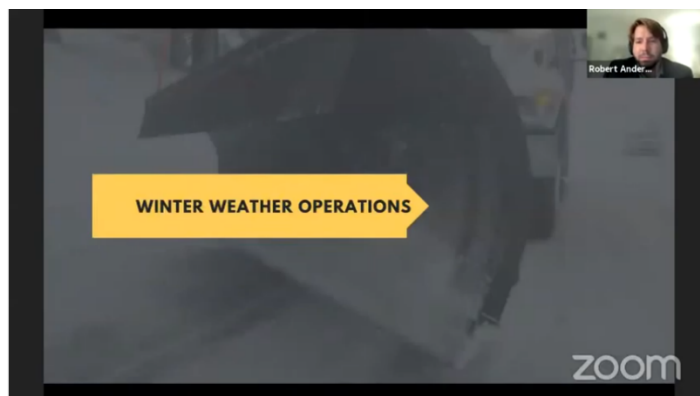
The change is about transparency. It's about identifying how much our services cost and then finding efficiencies within our services. It's about addressing really how much it takes to do a service and finding ways to improve ourselves. It brings accountability to our staff, and it also brings ownership to our users. This also paves the way for our future. It brings a future that allows us to look at other business units by themselves and see how much costs they are, and bring benefits to the community by reducing taxes to our community overall.



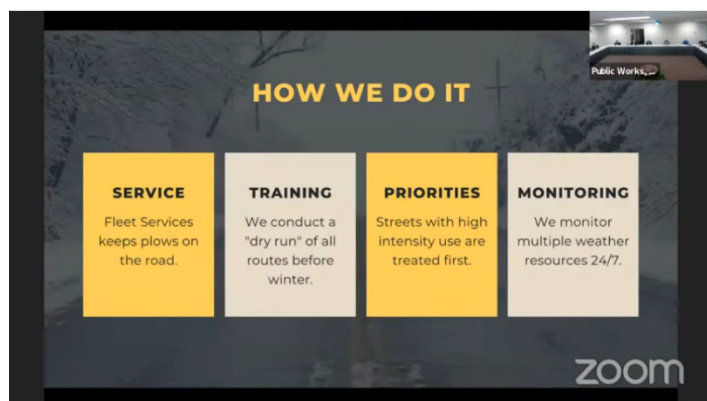
**Rob Anderson, Public Works Asset Manager**, said, I'm here to discuss improvements to our storm debris collection process. We utilize an ESRI survey app, specially designed for Public Works debris operations to collect the location, type of damage, size of limbs, and photos. Every storm is unique, assessing the damage, stepping back, and tailoring our response for the special circumstances of each storm is key to minimizing the impact spent on special operations.

Our most recent storm debris survey is depicted in this map. Street crews drove around the section of the county we knew to be impacted and performed a windshield survey shortly after the event ended. Collecting this data allowed us to estimate the extent of the damage, categorize it, and strategize our response. Special communications were designed to inform the public about our plan and actions they can take to help crews work more efficiently. The extra time between the event and pickup dates gave residents time to place debris at the curb and minimize the need for crews to backtrack or schedule special pickups.

Simply put, being data driven and systematic in our approach to storm debris pickup saves the UG time and money.

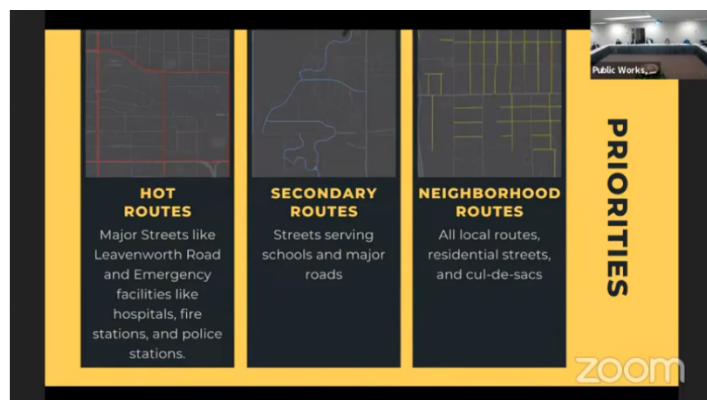


**Vince Billaci, Streets Manager**, said, tonight we're going to do a high-level overview of winter weather operations. We're with full commission here soon to go more in-depth on this.



We start every year going over all the equipment with Fleet Services and getting any needed repairs taken care of. Training, we'll do a dry run of all routes prior to the winter. We also, earlier this month, did our third annual snow plow rodeo as part of our training program. Priorities, we'll look at more in-depth on the next slide. Monitoring, we're constantly monitoring weather during the winter. We utilize a service called Weather or Not who gives us special detailed forecast for our area.

We'll also have a special addition to our program next year. Our winter weather program will be pavement sensors, so we can monitor the pavement temperatures all throughout the county at any given time.

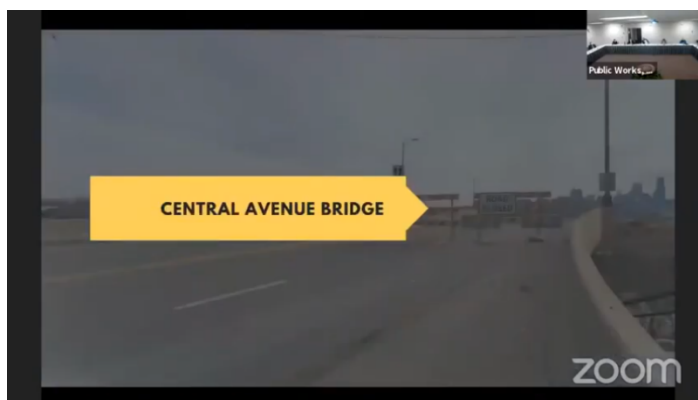


We start each storm by treating hot routes. These are major roads or any roads with hospitals, police, fire stations, other emergency facilities. Then, we move to secondary routes. Those are

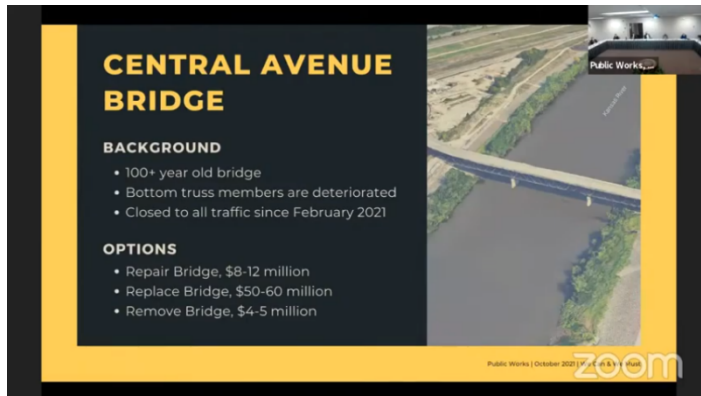
roads that feed those hot routes from the neighborhoods. Then finally, we have all the residential routes.



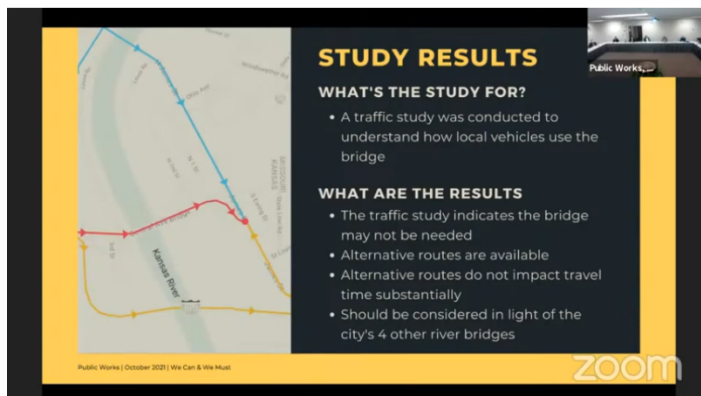
Some special things you can do to help us out during a winter weather event, avoid driving during a storm. The less traffic, the better for all our drivers out there. Avoid parking on the streets. Secure your mailbox. Your mailbox should be able to withstand the weight of the snow coming off the plow. Push snow to the right side of your driveway, that's if you're looking from your house to the street. You want to push it to the right side. That will help eliminate the snowplow from dragging the snow back through your driveway after you've shoveled. Again, remind kids not to play in large piles of snow in the road or sled in the street.



**Troy Shaw, County Engineer**, said, I've been given the special privilege to wrap this presentation up with a topic that many of our residents have a special interest in, which is the Central Avenue Bridge.



As almost everybody in here knows, this bridge is just over 100 years old, and has been closed since last February. We've received corps reports at that time that there was some significant damage to many of the structural members of the bridge and due to safety concerns, we decided to close it at that time. Since then, we have looked at some options and to figure out what we're going to do to this bridge, whether it's repair, replace, remove. All those different options range from \$4M to \$60M.

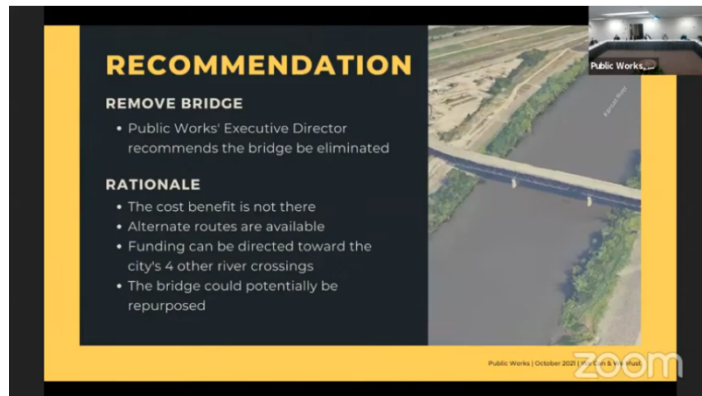


To help determine that, what we're going to do, we've recently completed a traffic study, which analyze the surrounding infrastructure as well as routes that would be taken if the Central Avenue bridge was not there. That includes the James Street and I-70, then 670 as well, in this study.

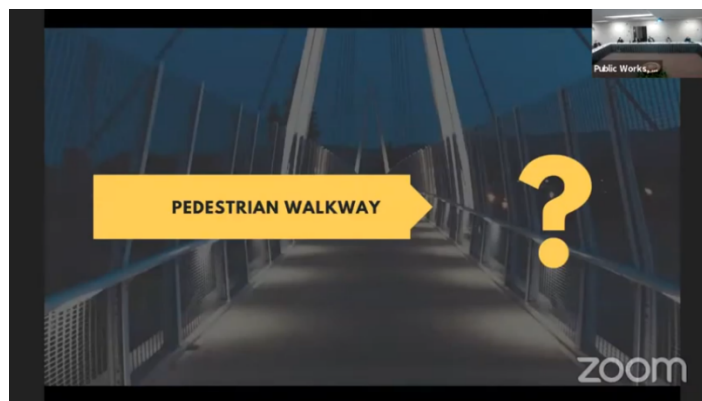
What we determined from the results of this study was that traffic has been flowing over the last six, seven months since we've closed it pretty well. The Central Avenue bridge, before COVID, carried around 4,700 vehicles per day and those vehicles have been distributed through the other routes that are made available currently.

I also want to note that we have other structures similar to the Central Avenue Bridge in Wyandotte County. We actually have three other major river bridge crossings and then another

major bridge over the BNSF railroad tracks. They're very similar and we're going to continue to monitor those, so we don't end up in this situation with those bridges moving forward.



Based on the results of this study, it's a recommendation of the Public Works Department that from the engineering analysis, that this bridge be eliminated from our infrastructure list and move forward with looking at alternatives or seeing if we can convert this crossing to something that may be a specialty crossing to the residents.



There's opportunity to convert something to a pedestrian walkway, we think. This would kind of fit in with what Melissa was talking about earlier with the levee trails and making that connection and a special place for pedestrians to go. That's all I have, and I just want to thank you for listening to us and letting the special team in Public Works speak.

**Chairman Bynum** said, Mr. Fisher, thank you. Do you have any closing comments for us?

**Mr. Fisher** said, I do not. Appreciate your time.

**Chairman Bynum** said, well let me say, on behalf of this committee, several things. First of all, just for the public observing, you may or may not know that on the Mayor's direction, we are divided into subcommittees. Each of which is working with this Public Works team on the variety of issues that were mentioned earlier in the presentation. So, in addition to the work that our Public Works team is doing each and every day, they're also taking time out of their schedules that are already full to have multiple separate meetings with groups of commissioners—people like me who don't know Public Works. So, number one, I've been on a super large learning curve, and they've been very easy to work with and help us learn.

It's an interesting balance to have a governing body charged with the large overview of how to spend the funds and that convening of the elected officials directly with this staff, I think might be one of the most impactful things that the commission has undertaken in a good long while. So, I for one am more than appreciative of the time that you are spending with us so that we can work together to try to come to those solutions and those strategies.

I just want to say as we close out this meeting that everything that's been on our agenda tonight seemed like a simple thing. Behind the scenes amazing efforts have been undertaken by our staff to put grants together, presentations together, everything that we've seen tonight was not a small thing on behalf of this staff. So, I just hope that there's some understanding of the work that goes into bringing something to us and with a simple vote we approve it, but it is not simple at all.

**Commissioner Philbrook** said, Public Works, they are the unsung heroes for sure and they get to deal with a lot of things that nobody notices unless they're driving over a pothole or complaining about their trash being picked up. So, the stormwater and wastewater issues, we take a lot of things for granted until we have something, a street wash out or an issue like that. A lot of these things have been catching up with us because of inaction over the years.

I want to thank the Mayor and Administrator and Jeff Fisher for bringing us all together to work on these so we can have an in-depth understanding of how to approach and care for our community and to create that long-term plan. Immediate plan, intermediate plan, and then that long term, you know, 30 years. Some things are going to take us 30 years. The knowledge that I'm gaining from this, I really do want to thank everybody. I do appreciate your help with this and looking forward to continue on with this. So, thanks a lot, Jeff.

**Commissioner Markley** said, a really great job by everyone who presented tonight. I really appreciate it. I do want to take just a minute to recognize Public Works' effort at culture and at successional planning and promotion of leadership skills. I think it's easy to think those things are not important, but they're really critical and they're particularly critical in this job market, which as we all know, is a very very difficult job market for us—for anybody—private sector, public sector, everybody's fighting for employees right now. If we want to retain the best employees to serve our residents, we have to have a workplace culture and a leadership skill-centric department to bring them into.

So, I really appreciate that. I'm not sure every department does it as well as you do, but I hope you'll be a good example for those departments to haven't in the past focus on developing a culture and a leadership plan. So, I really appreciate that, but like I said, always critical, particularly critical right now as we fight to retain employees.

**Mr. Fisher** said, thank you very much for all those comments. We appreciate that and your support.

**Chairman Bynum** said, thank you all very much and both Commissioners. Those are excellent comments to make and a good way to end this particular meeting tonight. With that, I will say to BPU Board Member Groneman, as always, we certainly appreciate the time that you take to come and serve on this committee with us, so thank you very much for that.

Adjourn:

**Chairman Bynum** adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

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