



City Administrator's Report

September 1, 2022

Public Comment Sought on MARC Grant Projects

As you are aware, the City submitted grant applications for the 2025-2026 Federal Highway Administration funding cycle. This grant opportunity is part of Mid-America Regional Council's (MARC) Connected KC 2050 Transportation Plan, which identifies transportation improvements for the next 30 years in the region.

This funding opportunity consisted of two phases: a pre-application and initial screening followed by a full application and technical evaluation.

The City submitted four applications for this grant opportunity:

- 1) Bridge Street Roundabout
- 2) Pope Lane Extension
- 3) Riverwalk Park
- 4) Second Creek Sidewalk

Public feedback is currently being sought on the grant applications. You can submit comment at: <https://gis2.marc2.org/suballoc.../PublicCommentListing.html>

Comments received will be provided to MARC's committees and incorporated into the process of determining funding recommendations.

Information to access and provide feedback has been posted to various social media sites in order to obtain additional information and support for Smithville projects.

Planning Calendar Updated

Following Board discussion and general concurrence with the recommended FY2023 Budget, staff has worked to identify timelines to complete budgeted projects and processes. The Planning Calendar included as a link to the agenda has been updated to incorporate Board action necessary for most of the projects included in the recommended FY2023 Budget.

Budget Implementation – Staffing and Large Item Purchases

As part of the review outlined above, staff has also discussed some logistical issues in budget implementation. As the Board is aware, hiring personnel continues to be a

daunting task. We are seeing an increase in the number of applications for some positions, but continue to recruit for others which have been vacant for some time. Three new positions are included in the FY2023 Budget: a supervisor in the utilities division of public works, a street maintenance employee and a recreation coordinator. Job descriptions and position vacancy announcements for two of these positions has been posted to the city's website and recruitment has begun. It is anticipated that if a successful recruitment identifies candidates for hiring, new employees would begin around November 1 when budget authority for the position will be included. The recreation coordinator position will report to the supervisory position currently in recruitment and once a new employee is onboard in that role, recruitment for the new position will begin.

In addition to difficulties in recruitment, staff has reported on numerous occasions of delays in receipt of critical elements or materials to complete large scale construction projects. Staff is working with engineers on large-scale utility projects to identify critical components for potential "pre-bid" to be completed separate from bid of the actual project in order to create lead-time in acquiring essential elements for projects.

Fireworks Permit Review

The September 6 agenda includes approval of three separate fireworks displays at White Iron Ridge in the coming months. When the first request for use of fireworks to celebrate a wedding ceremony at this venue was approved in 2020, the Board directed that future requests be review for adoption by the Board on a case-by-case basis. In the spring of 2021, the Board directed staff to review the approval process in order to bring a policy forward for Board review, comment and action with the goal of administrative approval of requests. Staff is finalizing that review and you will see the Planning Calendar includes Work Session discussion on this item on October 4.

Police Drone

The Police Department has been working to secure donations to purchase a drone. To date about half of the total funding of approximately \$12,000 has been secured. HeroFund USA is a private funding source for first-responder safety equipment and resources and has provided up to \$6,750 for purchase.

HeroFund USA has also asked representatives of the SPD to participate in driver introductions at the beginning of the September 9 and 10 NASCAR races to be held at the Kansas Speedway. Participants will include Captain Tony Roetman and Recruit Darren Tso, who will drive pickup trucks with the drivers sitting the bed of the truck.

GIS Project Update

Staff will be receiving training on the GIS platform on September 9. Currently, the project is in the fine-tuning stage, and SAM crews will be in the area for additional surveying. Once staff is fully trained on the software and the maps are finalized, the city will launch the public facing side of the GIS system.

Email Utility Bill Notification

Finance Department staff has been reviewing utility billing distribution. In 1999, about 2 to 3% of customers received bills via email. In March 2021, there were about 4,150 utility bills generated. Around 500 of these bills were emailed to utility customers, representing about 12% of all bills. The latest billing cycle included approximately 4,200 utility bills, with 600 to 620 bills emailed. This represents about 14.5% of all utility bills. Staff continues to encourage customers to elect electronic notification (email) of utility bills in order to provide information to customers more reliably and more quickly.

Bulky Item Pick-Up

Residents will have the opportunity to discard up to five large and bulky items at their curbside with regular trash collection during the week of October 3rd. Items such as appliances, washers, dryers, refrigerators and freezers with compressors and Freon removed, furniture, sinks, toilets, cabinets as well as rugs and carpet cut into 4-foot lengths will be accepted. All items must be stacked and bundled for collections. The following items are not accepted: glass items, e-waste (televisions, computers, monitors, etc.) tires, automobile parts, construction materials, tanks, oil drums, railroad ties, chemicals, or household hazardous waste.

Mobile Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Events

The City of Smithville is a member of the Regional HHW Collection Program, which allows Smithville residents to bring HHW to any of the mobile collection events and to the two permanent collection facilities free of charge. (Proof of residency is required at any of these events.)

A calendar of the regional HHW collection events for the remainder of the year here may be found at the following link: <https://www.recyclespot.org/HHW/Mobile-Events.aspx>. The next Northland on-site collection event is scheduled for September 10.

Information about the two permanent facilities (KCMO and Lee's Summit) may be found here: <https://www.recyclespot.org/HHW/HHW-Facilities.aspx>

Leadership Northland

Leadership Northland is a program of the Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce devoted to strengthening and educating area business and community professionals. The program is intensive, spanning several months with one day a month devoted to examining key themes and issues in the Northland. Sessions are held at various sites throughout the region, focusing on specific aspects of the Northland, greater Kansas City and the state of Missouri. With Mayor Boley's encouragement, I applied to be part of the 2022/2023 class and last week received word that I have been accepted. Day-long classes will begin in September. I'm looking forward to this opportunity to network with other community, business and civic leaders in the Northland and bring these resources and ideas back to Smithville.