



MULTI- USE PATH WORKSHOP REPORT

7651 E. Central Park Ave, Bel Aire, KS
February 17, 2026, 5:30 PM



1. Do you support bike/ped paths in the city- why or why not?

- a. Positive support with multiple hands in the room acknowledging support of multi-use paths in general in the city.
- b. Long time resident, big exerciser, supportive of paths (in general)

2. Would you like to see the city connected with bike/ped paths- why or why not?

- a. Positive support with multiple confirmations in the room acknowledging support to connect the city with bicycle/pedestrian paths.
- b. Resident stated that they have used the Phase 1 area as a path since 1992 and didn't see a problem in that area.

3. What do you like about the proposed plan? (Phase 1 option from 2019 Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan that extends a path from 45th to the Recreation Center to Alley Park east to Woodlawn)

- a. Resident statements were related to wanting bike/ped paths in general

4. What are your concerns about the proposed plan? (Phase 1 option from 2019 Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan that extends a path from 45th to the Recreation Center to Alley Park east to Woodlawn)

- a. Don't like Alley Park to Woodlawn path. The path would be along backyards, and there are concerns about privacy, noise, and strangers being behind or close to their homes.
- b. Several residents stated that when they bought their property they were under the assumption that the area behind their homes would not be used for anything. Resident stated this was true for the Phase 2 and Phase 3 between Woodlawn to Rock Road.
- c. Concerns were expressed about the area where Phase 1 would be developed was private property and there was concerns about privacy at backyards.
- d. Long time resident concerned about losing the hedgerow and the ability to access shop buildings on his property if path was put in.
- e. Cost to bring concrete in for the path would be very expensive and would require access to backyards.

- f. Resident between Woodlawn and Oliver stated that their private property extends to the hedgerow and they want to keep the hedgerow in place for privacy. Resident was told not to put anything in the right of way, as it would impede the pipeline.
- g. The Phase 1 path locations would be redundant due to existing sidewalks in the area.
- h. Resident expressed concerns about Phase 3 related to the need for property owners to install screening in the backyard and that additional cost they would be responsible for. Shared that he has a swimming pool that would require screening to protect his property. They currently leave the gate unlocked to let utilities access yard and was concerned about others using the path.
- i. The path area has drainage concerns that need to be addressed and there is a need for spillway access.
- j. Safety issues related to path being on north side of 45th street. With the increased development and access driveways along 45th off of Woodlawn there may not be enough room for a pathway. Recommended the path being built on south side of 45th.
- k. Concern about using tax dollars to acquire private property to develop path.
- l. Resident believes pipeline easement is exclusively private property owned by the homeowners along the Phase 1 area. Inquired who owns the gas easement, who the City has talked to at the pipeline and how the pipeline will access this area with a path.
- m. Resident was concerned about the maintenance of the path, specifically removing snow because maintenance had not been done on the last path installed.

5. *What do you like about the alternate plan?* (Alternate 1- path from 45th to Recreation Center to Alley Park- potential for path to “loop around” the recreation center and around the pond at Alley Park)

- a. Resident stated that Phase 1 is a good start to expand the path system especially with the 45th and 53rd street pathways that will be built. Avid user of paths across the metropolitan area and wants to advocate for this path.
- b. The Phase 1 path may be concerning to develop in homeowner’s backyards. Views the Phase 1, 2 and 3 area similar to the Redbud Trail efforts. Red Bud Trail has numerous homes along the trail and is a very successful path. Likes the idea of having the path span across Phase 1, 2 and 3 and feels it could be a natural quiet section similar to how the Redbud Trail feels.
- c. Additional comment about how the Redbud Trail areas have trees and bushes that screen homes along the trail.
- d. Resident shared that the difference between the Redbud Trail and the current project is that the Redbud Trail was developed under the “Rails to Trails” project, this project is not that. Resident felt the rail trails were more conducive for trails that what is being proposed.
- e. Resident confirmed that they enjoy beautiful bike paths but was concerned about trees being removed behind her home.
- f. Resident shared that in Bel Aire Heights the original developer established a covenant the would protect the trees in the neighborhood.
- g. Resident stated they like the idea of the gas line easement area being a path because they do not like riding in the road. Stated that there is a sidewalk along Eagle Lake, and he doesn’t see crimes in that area because of sidewalks. Felt the concern about loss of privacy and security is “overblown”.
- h. In favor of pathways and read that realtors have stated that pathways in communities increase property values (several residents laughed in disagreement with this statement)

6. ***What are your concerns about the alternate plan?*** (Alternate 1- path from 45th to Recreation Center to Alley Park- potential for path to “loop around” the recreation center and around the pond at Alley Park)

- a. Resident thought Alternate was a good start to connecting existing and future pathways.
- b. Resident felt there is not a need for a path to Alley Park because there are current neighborhood roads and sidewalks.
- c. Concerned about using money to develop pathways.
- d. Residents want the hedgerow to remain.

7. ***Is there Any other feedback you would like to provide that hasn’t already been discussed?***

- a. Concerns about safety on Rock Road. Resident has seen people jogging, kids walking from school and there is no sidewalk or path.

Facebook Comment (Andrew Betzen)

“There was a good turnout at this event this evening. A couple points that I *hope* made it into the meeting minutes, but just in case, here they are:

1. The city and involved engineers really shouldn't be prioritizing a bike path that runs right behind houses that have a residential street right in front of them. There are plenty of neighborhoods that aren't connected to the city center or rec center by bike other than by major roads. Our kids shouldn't have to walk or bike on 40+ mph streets to get to the rec center - that's where the bike paths need to go, not alongside low-traffic, 20mph residential streets. Along Woodlawn, Rock, 45th, etc. should be the priority.
2. Any proposed paths really need to be communicated better, especially if the city is going to go for eminent domain and pay peanuts for a slice of people's backyards. The original plan wasn't communicated well, and I'm worried those folks impacted by the new plan probably don't know and would sure like to.

Input/Considerations

1. If pathway “loops around” the pond at Alley Park- Does it lose the charm of the pond?
2. Is there a preference for surfacing around the pond- should it be cement, asphalt, gravel, rock?
 - a. Resident liked the idea of an “all weather” path around pond to be able to walk and not worry about mud.
 - b. Resident stated that gravel and rock would be difficult to walk and bike on- needed to be cement or asphalt.

Project Suggestions

1. Many residents encouraged the city to focus on the arterial roads first and not necessarily the interior (neighborhood roads) because these areas are already easy to navigate.
2. Would like to connect with other cities bike paths – should focus on connecting north and south.
3. Path be developed on the south side of 45th for safety reasons vs. the north side where development creates several driveways and entry points.
4. Stripe existing crosswalks.
5. Conduct a study to look at existing sidewalks, and identify the gaps so determine pathways/sidewalk projects.
6. Conduct additional engagement sessions on this topic to provide additional opportunities to share ideas.
7. Identify street crossings at 45th, and to Sunrise, and to Rec Center- areas should be evaluated to improve safety.
8. Should consider developments and neighborhoods that are not connected to assets or arterial streets first. Consider areas that need to be connected to parks and the recreation center.
9. City should focus on Rock Rd (north/south), instead of east/west along Bel Aire. Rock Rd connection would connect to Wichita and provide safety. Rock Road currently has no sidewalks or pathways.

Questions/Requests/Statements

1. Requests to receive maps to show projects that are currently being built.
2. Pipeline questions:
 - a. Who owns the pipeline easement?
 - b. Who has the City has talked to at the pipeline about this project?
 - c. How will the pipeline access this area with a path installed?
3. Has City done a study to connect sidewalks and existing paths to identify where are there are gaps? (suggestion to identify current sidewalks/paths above)
4. Who will maintain the pathways? (snow removal, etc.)
5. Statement: “more people would be supportive of paths if they were not in back yards but developed on arterial streets.”
6. What is cost of Phase 1?
7. What is the cost of Alternate 1?
8. What are the costs of the pathway projects on 53rd and 45th ?
9. Detail of the Alternate 1 path and how it go through, across or around Alley Park?
10. Does Alternate 1 replace Phase 1 project?
11. Is the \$700K grant for Phase 1, 2 and 3?
12. When would a path be constructed?
13. What is the total cost for Phase 1, 2 and 3?
14. Can the \$700K grant be used for Alternate 1?
15. Where would funding for Phase 2 and Phase 3 come from?
16. Is the \$700K grant “use it or lose it”?
17. Does Phase 1 have a greater or lesser impact on property owners compared to Alternate 1?
18. Why can't the \$700K grant funds be used to address Woodlawn?
19. Who would mow the easement are if a path was developed?





