

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

Meeting Date: May 9, 2024

Staff Contact: Leslie Herring, City Administrator
John Sullivan, Public Works Director

Agenda Item: Discuss current status of design of 2025 Mission Rd. improvements

Background/Description of Item

Mission Rd. improvements are scheduled to be completed in 2025 as part of the City's Capital Improvement Plan. As these improvements are scheduled for next spring, design and preparations are well underway and have been for the past few years. Although I have provided you all with updates on this project in real time and many of you have engaged in it in various ways over the past three years, I am providing the following background information for convenient reference and for the benefit of any members of the public who may be interested in this agenda item.

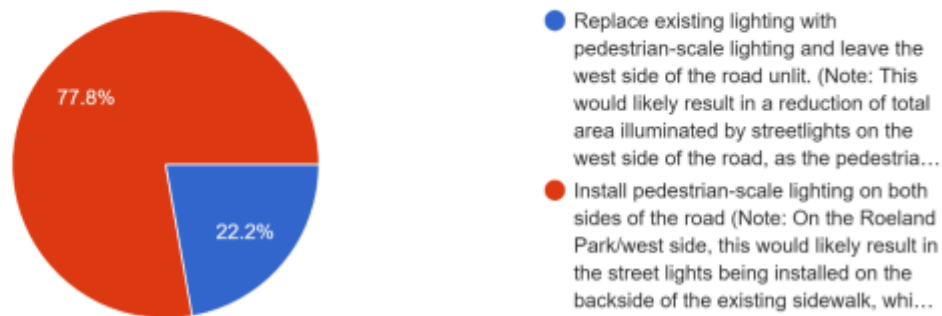
The following is a brief history to illustrate the evolution of this project:

- August 2021 – Roeland Park and Westwood began discussing the scope of a project for making surface and bike/ped improvements to Mission Rd. These discussions took place at both the staff and City Council Committee level.
- March 2022 – Roeland Park and Westwood held a joint virtual – via Zoom – neighborhood meeting to introduce the project and to address initial questions and concerns from residents along Mission Rd. and continued. Westwood advertised the meeting through The Buzz and on our website and Roeland Park mailed a letter to all addresses along Mission Rd. in their City. A copy of the letter is attached.
- May 2022 – the cities jointly issued a resident survey to gauge interest from the community on changes to the roadway in line with the Complete Streets/Bike-Ped Plan of each City. Those survey results and other supporting information are available via this link to Roeland Park's website:
<https://www.roelandpark.net/432/2025-Mission-Road-Improvements>.
- June 2022 – Roeland Park and Westwood staff and elected official committees met to review the results of the survey and, at that meeting, Westwood believed the direction agreed upon by both cities to be to design the project scope to implement the Complete Streets/Bike-Ped Plan of each City, which also aligned with the vast majority of survey respondents as illustrated below:

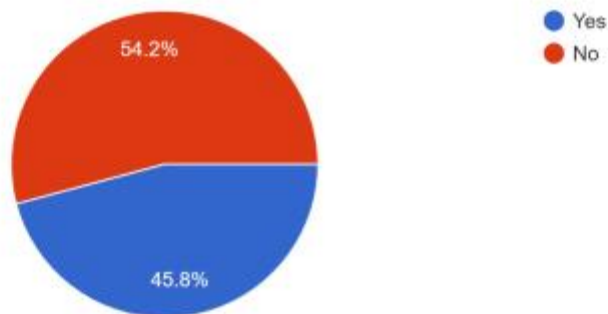
The cities of Roeland Park and Westwood are currently discussing how to include bike lanes into the project plan. To aid the cities in their decision, the following is a summary of the two bike lane options provided below
48 responses



The cities of Roeland Park and Westwood are currently discussing how to include street light improvements into the project plan. To aid the city of the two street lighting options provided below
45 responses



Are you a property owner or tenant along Mission Road between 47th Street and 53rd Street?
48 responses



- Summer 2022 – Westwood staff asked if the project could be delayed a year to build a balance back up in the City's CIP to adequately fund this project. Roeland Park agreed.
- April 2023 – Westwood and Roeland Park reengaged planning for the project in anticipation of a Spring 2024 deadline to submit a scope and project estimate to Johnson County for CARS funding. In the interim, Roeland Park was working directly with its City Engineer to create the preliminary design for the project.
- September 2023 – Westwood City Council approved an interlocal agreement with Roeland Park to share in the cost for the project in preparation for formally pursuing County funding through the CARS program.
- February 2024 – Roeland Park held a second neighborhood meeting – in person – to reintroduce this project and the design scope to residents. The City of Westwood also advertised this meeting and staff and Councilmembers Steele and Hannaman and Mayor Waters all attended to be available for questions. Roeland Park mailed a letter noticing the meeting to all addresses along Mission Rd. in their City. A copy of the letter is attached.
- March 2024 – Roeland Park elected officials began receiving contact from their constituents sharing their opposition to the project scope. In an effort to be responsive to the questions and concerns expressed, the two cities jointly issued an FAQ, which is still on Roeland Park's website. Roeland Park's City Engineer submitted the project scope of cost estimate to Johnson County for consideration and inclusion in the 2025 CARS funding program.

- April 2024 – Roeland Park received a resident petition in opposition to the proposed scope of work. Since that time, their elected officials, residents, and City staff have worked together to address the concerns raised.
- May 6, 2024 – Roeland Park held a City Council workshop to discuss this item and to provide direction to their staff relating to the design scope of the projects and whether alternatives to the agreed-upon plan would be pursued. Public comment was heard, Roeland Park's City Engineer and City Administrator presented, and the City Council discussed. Ultimately, their Council gave direction – although not unanimously – to City staff to continue with the previously-agreed design scope but to consider at a later date making changes to their City Code to allow for on-street parking in the bike lane on their side of the street. City staff and Councilmember Steele were present at that meeting.

Staff Comments/Recommendation

Councilmember Steele has requested this item be added to tonight's agenda to allow space and time for the Governing Body to discuss the following question:

Is it still the desire of the Governing Body to implement the City's Complete Streets Plan with the 2025 Mission Rd. improvements?

The scope includes:

- Adding bike lanes to both sides of the street and moving the centerline to the center of the road bed (it is currently closer to the east/Westwood side of the roadbed to accommodate on-street parking on the west/Roeland Park side);
- Moving the cobra head street light attachments from the utility poles on the Westwood side of the road and installing streetlighting that adequately lights both the roadway and the sidewalks and intersections of both cities; and
- Adding pedestrian safety features including crosswalks at both 50th St./49th Pl. and 48th St./48th Ter.

Budget Impact

N/A

Suggested Motion

None needed.