

**NOTICE OF OPEN WORK SESSION OF THE
CITY COUNCIL AND THE PLANNING COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF NORTH KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI**

**September 21, 2021
6:00 PM**

The tentative agenda of this meeting includes:

1. Call Meeting to Order

2. Armour Road Complete Street Next Steps



The purpose of this work session is to provide an update to the City Council on the status of Armour Road Complete Street improvements and seek direction on the improvements that are now planned for Fiscal Year 2022.

3. Adjournment

This open work session of the City Council and the Planning Commission of the City of North Kansas City, Missouri, has been duly called pursuant to the provisions of Section 2.04.030 of the Code of the City of North Kansas City, Missouri, by the undersigned Mayor of the City of North Kansas City, Missouri.

DONE this 17th day of September 2021, at 5:00 p.m.



Bryant DeLong, *Mayor*

Representatives of the news media may obtain copies of this notice by contacting:

Crystal Doss, City Clerk, City Hall
2010 Howell Street
North Kansas City, Missouri 64116
Telephone No. (816) 274-6000

MEMORANDUM



TO: Mayor and City Council
City Administrator

FROM: Sara Copeland, AICP; Community Development Director
Anthony Sands, PE; Public Works Director

DATE: September 21, 2021

RE: Armour Road Complete Street Next Steps

The purpose of this work session is to provide an update to the City Council on the status of Armour Road Complete Street improvements and seek direction on the improvements that are now planned for Fiscal Year 2022.

Background

The complete street improvements to Armour Road are guided by the Armour Road Complete Street Plan that was adopted by the Council on December 5, 2017 after a ten-month planning process supported by a Planning Sustainable Places grant from the Mid America Regional Council. The process was guided by an advisory committee and based on feedback from community meetings, focus groups, a demonstration project, and presentations to the Planning Commission and City Council. The plan establishes the following vision and goals: "The ultimate vision for Armour Road between Burlington and Ozark is a corridor that is safe, serves all users, incorporates sustainable measures, is visually appealing, and is economically vibrant."

The plan identified three unique segments along Armour Road – the Downtown Zone from Burlington to Fayette, the Transition Zone from Fayette to Knox, and the Commercial Zone from Knox to Ozark, based on existing land use and street design, and defined the intent for each zone. For the Downtown Zone, the intent is to build on the classic "main street" character of the area through placemaking and gateway elements. In the Transition Zone, the intent is to expand the intensity of downtown and support additional development, and to transition the spatial experience of the street to the less intense development on the east. For the Commercial Zone, the intent is to soften the impact of auto-centric development patterns, expand green spaces and define gateways.

After the adoption of the Armour Road Complete Street Plan, the City engaged WSP to provide engineering services for Phase 1 improvements, which included installation of bike lanes

between Ozark and Fayette. Phase 1 improvements were bid in September 2018, but bids were higher than the cost estimate and budget for the project, so no contract was awarded. Staff worked with the project engineer to make changes to the bid and the project was rebid in the spring of 2020; the contract was awarded on June 4, 2020 and included restriping to create bike lanes between Ozark and Fayette, installation of islands at the intersection of Armour & Iron, new curb ramps at Armour & Howell, truck route signage, signal modifications, pedestrian refuge islands at Gentry, near the Post Office, and at Knox, and decorative crosswalks at Armour & Iron. City crews installed delineators along the project.

Prior to the completion of construction, the City Council directed staff to hold a Town Hall meeting on October 15, 2019 to hear feedback on the Armour Road Complete Street improvements. At the conclusion of public input, the Council directed staff to collect data on the performance of Armour Road and make a follow-up presentation on the impact of the complete street on traffic flow. The Council also directed that minor adjustments be made to parking and access at the Post Office and the Mop Bucket, which were completed. On March 17, 2020, City Council provided staff with direction regarding the right-turn lane on westbound Armour at Linn, after the relocation of QuikTrip, and Municipal Services crews removed the on-street parking in front of the former QuikTrip building to create a right-turn lane at Knox in mid-June 2020.

The follow-up Armour Road Complete Street workshop was delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic, but was ultimately held on September 22, 2020 as a virtual meeting. Data on traffic speeds, crashes, travel times, and traffic volumes, including vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians, was presented and public comments were received prior to the meeting and presented to the City Council. At the conclusion of the virtual meeting, the City Council directed staff to examine a list of possible adjustments to the Armour Road Complete Street project based on community feedback. The list included:

- Adjusting turning radii at the Post Office drop boxes
- Adjusting turning radii at street intersections
- Reintroducing the right turn lane at Fayette
- Replacing landscaping in the islands at Iron Street
- Adding green conflict zone markings
- Replacing delineator guideposts
- Evaluating signal operation improvements at Iron and Howell

Alternatives for these adjustments were discussed with the City Council at work sessions on December 15, 2020 and January 5, 2021. On February 2, 2021, staff provided cost estimates and plans for next steps to the City Council; the Council directed staff to move forward with planned Phase 2 improvements as well as directed adjustments and on February 16, the Council approved a budget amendment to facilitate this work and the engineering task order with WSP.

Status of 2021 Armour Road Adjustments

The adjustments directed by the City Council were divided into two groups: work that could be done by Municipal Services crews and work that would need to be bid for completion by a contractor. WSP completed in-house plans and bidding plans respectively and the bid plans,

incorporating the Fayette right turn lane, new left turn signal at Iron, and the Phase 2 improvements at Armour and Howell, are complete. Municipal Services crews have painted the curb noses at Armour & Iron yellow to increase their visibility, adjusted the markings at the Post Office drop boxes, and replaced the feather reed grasses in the islands at Iron Street with lower height plants.

Council directed staff to replace the delineators with pre-cast curbs, but at the winter work sessions expressed a preference for taller protection that might be more visible to drivers. On July 20, 2021, staff proposed a combination of curb stops and delineators such as used by KCMO on Gilham Road, but Council rejected that option. Since that time, the Public Works Director has found designs for a low concrete wall used in Canada that staff feels would provide better visibility as well the needed protection. The low concrete walls are approximately 18 inches tall and are modular. Staff is further investigating options for procuring these walls.

Coordination with the NKC Special Road District

During the planning for installation of the green conflict zone markings, staff became increasingly concerned about the condition of the Armour Road pavement. Staff did not want to install markings that might be removed or covered in the near term by any repaving that might be done by the North Kansas City Special Road District. The Public Works Director recommends resurfacing the roadway before installing the new pavement markings, and so he reached out to the Road District regarding Armour Road to learn more about their future plans.

At the September 10 Road District meeting, city staff proposed a cost-share for a mill and overlay of Armour Road from Fayette to Linn. The Road District indicated that they are open to coordinating with the City on the cost-share. The details of this cost-share require additional negotiation.

Next Steps

Staff has four main recommendations for the Armour Road Complete Street at this time:

- Consolidating the outstanding work (green conflict zone markings, Fayette right turn lane, left turn signal at Iron), Phase 2 improvements to the Armour and Howell intersection, and the Phase 3 (bump-out islands at Gentry and Knox) and Phase 4 (mid-block crossing between Macon and Ozark) improvements into one project. While Phase 2, 3, and 4 have previously been budgeted for separate years, they are all shown in FY 2022 in the proposed budget that is before the City Council for adoption.
- Incorporating a mill and overlay for Armour Road from Fayette to Linn into this project. Including the mill and overlay will require a budget amendment, as the cost of this work was not included in the proposed budget. Staff will continue to negotiate a cost-share with the Road District. Should the City Council move forward with incorporating the mill and overlay project, staff will bring forward a budget amendment after a cost-share agreement has been negotiated.

- Continuing to investigate low concrete walls for bicycle lane protection to replace remaining delineators, primarily at Fayette, Gentry, and between Knox and Linn.
- Putting the consolidated project out to bid this spring.