

RESOLUTION NO. 7612

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAWRENCE, KANSAS, APPOINTING A TASK FORCE TO ADVISE, REVIEW, AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK TO THE CONSULTANT, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PROJECT SCOPE, THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING THE NORTH LAWRENCE COMPREHENSIVE CORRIDOR STUDY FOR THE CITY.

WHEREAS, the City of Lawrence Commission approved a North Lawrence Comprehensive Corridor Study in the 2025–2029 Capital Improvement Plan. The consulting partner has been selected; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lawrence Identified in Plan 2040 and the Downtown Lawrence Plan, the activation of the Kansas River waterfront and enhanced gateways along our major corridors have been identified as an amenity for the surrounding neighborhoods and Downtown Lawrence. North 2nd Street is the primary gateway for many people to Lawrence, either via the Lawrence Regional Airport, I-70, or U.S. Highway 24/40. Because of this importance and prominence in our community, this North Lawrence Comprehensive Corridor study will evaluate land use opportunities to strengthen connection to the Kansas River and enhance a variety of modes of transportation between the airport and downtown along this corridor, that affect adjacent neighborhoods, commercial centers, potential industrial growth, open/recreation space, and provide guidance on transportation network connections improving accessible, sustainable methods for safe movement.

WHEREAS, the study will also look at future improvements at the Union Pacific underpass and other at-grade railroad crossings in North Lawrence. This location contains a variety of land uses and various forms of transportation. Since the interrelation of transportation and land use planning is critical as the design of one directly affects the other, this work would also study surrounding land uses to provide guidance and identify opportunities and reflect options to enhance the corridor to accommodate the needs of owners within it as well as the adjacent neighborhoods and areas. It would study future possible bridge alignments over the Kansas River to prepare for replacement of aging existing infrastructure. The North 2nd Street corridor is part of the draft High Injury Network for the Vision Zero Safety Action Plan, where citywide 65% of fatal and serious injury crashes have occurred on just 6.5% of Lawrence's roadways. The study will also seek to evaluate options to address these roadway hazards.

WHEREAS, the corridor and surrounding area contain a wide variety of stakeholders and is one of the most critical nexus points for a wide range of various transportation and infrastructure assets, including those maintained and operated by Union Pacific and BNSF Railways, Kansas Department of Transportation, the City of Lawrence, the Lawrence Loop, Bowersock Hydropower plant and dam, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers levee system maintained by the City of Lawrence.

WHEREAS, the project includes evaluation of economic development and the potential for new development. The analysis will develop an understanding of current market conditions compared to the potential created by a change in the use of land in the corridor. The City seeks to understand how that change would result in enhanced economic activity and the market analysis results. The City seeks to utilize this analysis in potentially pursuing various economic

development tools, financing mechanisms, creating special taxing districts, and to give support to requests for federal funds.

WHEREAS, through the City's strategic planning process, the Governing Body has identified strategies in the Commitment areas of Strong, Welcoming Neighborhoods and Prosperity and Economic Security and Connected City which are directly related to development in Lawrence; and

WHEREAS, establishing a Task Force would provide evaluation and guidance on the North Lawrence Comprehensive Corridor Study to the consultants, the Planning Commission, and the Governing Body.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF LAWRENCE, KANSAS:

SECTION 1. Accordingly, the Governing Body hereby establishes a nine-member Task Force. The Task Force shall have the following composition (appointed by the noted authorities):

- 1 - Grant Township area resident (Appointed by the Grant Township Board)
- 2 - Lawrence Douglas County Planning Commission Member (City Appointee AND County Appointee, appointed by Planning Commission)
- 1 - North Lawrence Improvement Association (Appointed by the North Lawrence Improvement Association)
- 1 - Aviation Advisory Board (Appointed by the Aviation Advisory Board)
- 1 - Connected City Advisory Board (Appointed by the Connected City Advisory Board)
- 1 - Parks, Recreation & Culture Advisory Board (Appointed by the PRC Advisory Board)
- 1 - Woodlawn PTO or Douglas County Public Health Safe Routes to School Champion (Appointed by the PTO or Public Health)
- 1 - Lawrence Chamber of Commerce (Appointed by the Chamber)
- 2 - At large study area business owner (Appointed by the Mayor with consent of the City Commission)
- 1 - At large study area residents (Appointed by the Mayor with consent of the City Commission)

SECTION 2. The Governing Body hereby charges the Task Force to use the following working groups to assist with the development of recommendations and actions steps to ensure the success of the North Lawrence Comprehensive Corridor Study **(1)** Transportation and Infrastructure; **(2)** Placemaking; and **(3)** Economic Revitalization. The consultant is hereby charged with conducting Task Force meetings, setting the agendas, and gathering and evaluating feedback received from the Task Force.

SECTION 3. Upon the adoption by the Governing Body of the updated North Lawrence Comprehensive Corridor Study, the Task Force shall be retired. In the event a member of the Task Force is *unable or unwilling to complete their appointment*, then the *original appointing authority* shall, at the earliest practicable time, appoint their replacement.

SECTION 4. If any section, clause, sentence, or phrase of this resolution is found to be unconstitutional or is otherwise held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect the validity of any remaining parts of this resolution.

SECTION 6. This resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its adoption by the Governing Body of the City of Lawrence, Kansas.

ADOPTED by the Governing Body of the City of Lawrence, Kansas, this 9th day of September 2025.

APPROVED:



Michael Dever
Mayor

ATTEST:



Sherri Riedemann
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Toni R. Wheeler
City Attorney

