



June 11, 2020

**WBPAB Members:**

Jack Brown, Chair  
Elizabeth Ablah,  
Vice Chair  
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The Wichita Bicycle and Pedestrian Board shall advise the Mayor; City Council; City Manager; all departments; all offices of the City; City Boards and committees; and other public agencies that provide services within the City, on matters related to bicycling and/or walking and the impact that their actions may have on the bicycling and/or walking environment. City of Wichita Ordinance 490441

**Subject: City of Wichita 2021 Operating Budget Recommendations-  
Wichita Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board**

Dear Mayor Whipple, City Council Members and City Manager:

This letter is to provide you with the Wichita Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board recommendations for the City's 2021 Operating Budget. The board recognizes that the Covid 19 pandemic will have an impact on the general operating budget process and priorities. The pandemic has also impacted the way residents travel and move throughout our city. In Wichita and many communities this has led to an increased amount of bicycling and walking; making accommodations for biking and walking even more important.

Thank you for your leadership in improving conditions for bicycling and walking; implementing both the Wichita Bicycle Master Plan (WBMP) and the Wichita Pedestrian Master Plan (WPMP). In order to continue working toward Wichita's walking and bicycling goals the board is recommending the following items. These recommendations were identified through board discussion, public input, and a prioritization process over the past year. The recommendations are consistent with the strategies from the Wichita Bicycle Master Plan (WBMP) and Wichita Pedestrian Master Plan (WPMP).

- 1. Create 1 (one) Full-time Bicycle & Pedestrian staff planning position**
- 2. Create 1 (one) Full-time Bicycle and Pedestrian engineering position**
- 3. Bikeway Maintenance**
- 4. School Walking and Bicycle Route Plans**
- 5. Spot Improvements and Enhancements**
- 6. Multi-Modal Complete Streets Implementation for Maintenance Projects**
- 7. Bikeway Maintenance Plan**
- 8. Prioritize Intersections Arterial & Sidewalks for Pedestrian Safety Improvements**

Please see the attached descriptions for more detailed information on the WBPAB recommendations with estimated costs.

The recommendations complement the board's recommendations for the proposed 2021-2030 Capital Improvement Program. The recommendations promote walking and bicycling through enhanced bikeways maintenance; public safety; and a more convenient and accessible environment for the community. Programming funding in the operating budget for cycling and pedestrian improvements is a key step in the city's plan for active transportation that provides an accessible, safe, and healthy environment for the community.

For the board,



Jack Brown, Chair, WBPAB

Cc: Wichita Bicycle and Pedestrian Board Members  
Scott Wadle, City of Wichita

## 2020 General Operating Budget Project Descriptions

### 1. Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Position \$80,000

- **Wichita Bicycle Master Plan Strategy 26**

This funding would provide for one additional full-time equivalent staff planning position, the position would be responsible for bicycle and pedestrian planning. The additional staffing would add capacity for in-house projects, improved reporting, better project management, improved timeliness, and redundancy for high priority initiatives.



## 2. Bicycle and Pedestrian Engineering Position \$100,000

- **Wichita Bicycle Master Plan Strategy 26**

This position would provide for bicycle and pedestrian project design work. The additional staffing would allow for enhanced in-house projects, increased capacity for project management, improved timeliness, and redundancy.





### 3. Bikeway Maintenance - \$75,000

- **Wichita Bicycle Master Plan Strategy 7**

This project would fund maintenance of existing on-and off-street bikeways. This request would supplement the current bikeways maintenance. The bikeway maintenance would include additional efforts to address lane striping; patching; more frequent sweeping; and control of thorns and stickers along bikeways.



#### **4. School Walking and Bicycling Route Plans - \$45,000**

- **Wichita Bicycle Master Plan Strategy 14**
- **Wichita Pedestrian Master Plan Strategy 6**

This project will fund the creation of one or more neighborhood pedestrian circulation plans for pedestrian and bicycle improvements at and around school sites; including walking and bicycling routes to the school(s). The plan(s) will help area stakeholders to identify and prioritize improvements. In addition to the creation of the individual plans, the project will create program guidelines for City of Wichita neighborhood circulation plans, in order to help with future planning projects. This recommendation would complement the CIP recommendation for a separate line item for Safe Routes to School.



## 5. Spot Improvements and Enhancements \$50,000

- **Wichita Bicycle Master Plan Strategy 7**
- **Wichita Bicycle Master Plan Strategy 1**
- **Wichita Pedestrian Master Plan Strategy 11**

This project will improve conditions for walking and bicycling by funding one-time improvements. The projects might include restriping approaches to, through, and after intersections; removing unnecessary bollards; updating lighting in key locations; reconfiguring crossings; and other needed improvements.





## 6. Multi-Modal / Complete Streets Implementation for Maintenance Projects - \$250,000

- **Wichita Bicycle Master Plan Strategy 20**

This initiative would provide funding to implement the City Multi-Modal Policy by incorporating bicycling, walking and transit related improvements into street maintenance projects.



## 7. Bikeway Maintenance Plan - \$60,000

- **Wichita Bicycle Master Plan Strategy 7**

This project would fund the creation of a bikeway maintenance plan in order to:

- Identify and establish prioritization for both criteria and frequency for annual maintenance of existing facilities.
- Create prioritized plan for maintaining and funding on- and off-road facilities (e.g. sweeping bike lanes; fixing potholes, etc.).
- Determine recommended elements of individual bikeway maintenance plans for new bikeway design projects

Below is a listing of the proposed plan elements.

- Overview with general return of investment analysis explanation of the importance of proper maintenance of bicycle facilities
- Identification of current maintenance activities
- Identification of maintenance responsibilities by organization (e.g. adjacent property owner, City, Wichita Transit, utilities, etc.)
- Review of best practices for maintenance
- Categorization of maintenance activities as routine or major
- Prioritization criteria for frequency of maintenance
- Cost estimates for maintenance activities
- Checklist for maintenance field staff with instructions and frequency
- Checklist for new construction maintenance estimates
- Recommended policies and procedures for receiving, administering, tracking, and recording maintenance requests
- Performance measures to evaluate performance
- Recommendations for future funding sources and related policies
- Recommended elements of an annual maintenance work plan
- Detour protocols for bicycle facilities that are closed for maintenance or other work
- Recommendations for changes to construction standards and design process to reduce maintenance costs
- Identification of current citizen reporting processes (i.e. how citizens report a City issue)
- Identification of current City issue logging, routing, and tracking





## 8. Prioritize Intersections and arterial sidewalks for Pedestrian Safety Improvements - \$25,000

- **Wichita Pedestrian Master Plan Strategy 3, 4**
- **Wichita Bicycle Master Plan Strategy 3**

This initiative would use the criteria listed below and national best practices to create a process to prioritize intersections and possible sidewalks locations for pedestrian improvements. The process should include the creation of a digital process for quickly evaluating multiple projects using GIS or other systems.

### Criteria

- Priority corridors: Douglas Ave, Broadway Ave and Central Ave
- Crash data
- Roadway characteristics: speed, volume, number of lanes, distance between signals etc.
- School walking routes
- Proximity to major destinations, including but not limited to those listed below
  - Senior housing
  - Schools
  - Local commercial nodes
  - Transit routes

