

Woodchuck Bicycle Boulevard

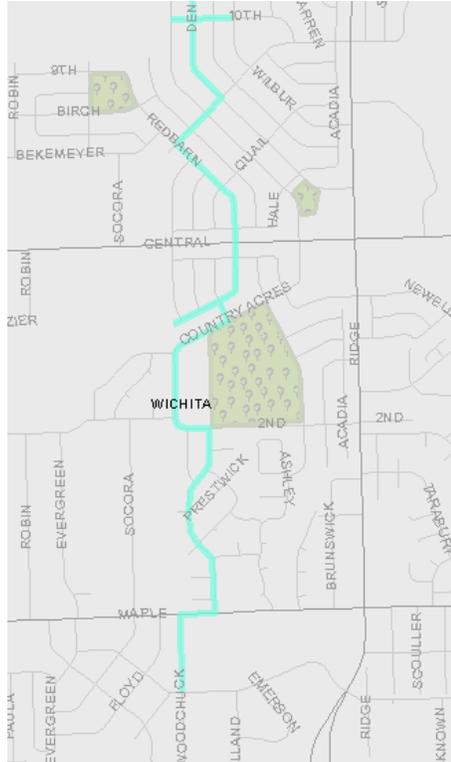
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Updated: March 30, 2016

Project Summary

The Woodchuck Bicycle Boulevard Project is being undertaken to implement the Wichita Bicycle Master Plan to provide a safer and better connected north-south route from Sedgwick County Park to University Avenue.



This project will consist of the following actions described below.

Designs

This project will design bicycle facilities for an approximately 4.5-mile long Bicycle Boulevard from the Sedgwick County Park path network west and south terminating on University Avenue (south of Maple Street). The project design will explore options for improvements to help: increase the safety of all street users; bicyclists get across major roadways; and provide directional guidance such as signage and pavement markings. The final design will be presented to the Wichita City Council for approval. The initial concepts show that there will be almost no changes to on-street parking.

Construction

Once the final designs have been approved by the Wichita City Council, then the construction phase of the project can begin. Funding has been allocated for construction of the Woodchuck Bicycle Boulevard.

Additional Information on Bicycle Boulevards

A Bicycle Boulevard (sometimes referred to as a “quiet street”) is a low-speed and low-volume on-street bicycle route shared with vehicles that include extra markings and improved crossings at major streets to encourage safe bicycle travel. A Bicycle Boulevard typically includes the following changes to the street.

- Signage and markings to guide people.
- Physical changes to help calm traffic.
- Improvements to help bicyclists cross major streets.

Background

On **February 5, 2013**, the Wichita City Council unanimously endorsed the Wichita Bicycle Master Plan as a guide for future planning and decision making regarding public infrastructure investments, operations, and policies. The Wichita Bicycle Master Plan recommends the development of the Woodchuck Bicycle Boulevard as part of the Bicycle Network, 10-Year Priority Bicycle Network, and the Top 10 Recommended Priority On-Street and Side Path Bicycle Facilities. The planning process for the Wichita Bicycle Master Plan lasted more than two (2) years, and included more than 50 public meetings and events. More than 4,000 people were engaged in the planning process. The planning process included presentations to multiple neighborhood associations and other organizations; and multiple outreach efforts. More information about the Wichita Bicycle Master Plan can be found on the City of Wichita [web page](#).

On **April 16, 2013**, the Wichita City Council approved a memorandum of agreement with the Wichita Health and Wellness Coalition to undertake multiple bicycle and pedestrian related projects. The agreement identified how the \$687,220 of CDC Community Transformation Grant – Small Communities funding from the Health and Wellness Coalition and the \$66,012 of City funding would be utilized.

On **June 4, 2013**, the City of Wichita was awarded federal Transportation Enhancement funding from KDOT for the construction of multiple bicycle facility projects, including the Woodchuck Bicycle Boulevard.

On **August 6, 2013**, the Wichita City Council approved the contracts for the development of designs for multiple bicycle facilities, including the Woodchuck Bicycle Boulevard.

On **September 17, 2013**, the Wichita City Council approved the revised budget, adopted the amending resolution, and authorized the necessary signatures to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds for the design and construction of multiple bicycle facility projects (including those on 1st and 2nd Street). The City funding for the projects comes from the Bike Enhancements line item for \$500,000 within the 2011-2020 Adopted Capital Improvement Program.

On **July 10, 2014**, the City of Wichita hosted an open house event at the Sedgwick County Extension Education Center for stakeholders along the proposed Woodchuck Bicycle Boulevard from Ridge to Central Avenue. The stakeholders were invited to the open house by City staff, who delivered pamphlets and letters to locations adjacent to the project corridors. The pamphlets and letters included information about the project and open house event. The open house event was an opportunity for participants to learn about the project, ask questions, and submit comments using comment forms.

On **July 21, 2014**, the City of Wichita District Advisory Board for Council District V received a presentation about the Woodchuck Bicycle Boulevard, including the project designs. The DAB members voted unanimously to recommend approval of the project.

On **October 23, 2015**, the City of Wichita closed the bid solicitation for construction of the Woodchuck Bikeway.

On **November 10, 2015**, the Wichita City Council voted to approve a contract with Pearson Construction LLC for construction of the Woodchuck Bikeway.

Project Schedule

City staff estimate that the project will be completed in the spring of 2016.

Project Contact

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Paul Gunzelman at (316) 268-4393, or via email at pgunzelman@wichita.gov.

If you have any questions about the Wichita Bicycle Master Plan please contact Scott Wadle at (316)352-4855, or via email at swadle@wichita.gov.