
Armour Bicycle Boulevard

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Project Description

This project consists of the following actions described below.

Designs

This project designed bicycle facilities to provide a safer and better connected north-south route from the K-96 path (near 32nd & Woodlawn) to the Gypsum Creek Path (near Towne East Mall).

Construction

Following approval of the final designs by the Wichita City Council, the construction phase of the project begins. Funding has been allocated and secured for construction of the Armour Bicycle Boulevard.

Transportation Improvements

The Armour Bicycle Boulevard will provide an important connection between two existing shared-use paths and access to multiple destinations. Below is a listing of some of the destinations along the project corridor.

Trip Origins and Destinations

Existing Bikeways

The Armour Bicycle Boulevard will connect the existing K-96 Path near the North YMCA to the northern terminus of the Gypsum Creek Path at the intersection of Douglas Avenue and Towne East Mall Drive.

Entertainment and Commercial Destinations

The Armour Bicycle Boulevard will provide access to many entertainment and cultural destinations, including Towne East Mall, Brittany Center, Target, Dillons Stores, and the North YMCA.

Residential Neighborhoods/Districts and Schools

The Armour Bicycle Boulevard will provide access to the Comotara Mainsgate Village, Cottonwood Village, and Rockhurst neighborhoods, as well as the City of Eastborough. Price-Harris Communications Magnet Elementary School (706 N. Armour), and St. Thomas Aquinas School (1215 N. Stratford Ln) are also near the proposed Armour Bicycle Boulevard.

Wichita Transit Bus Routes

The Armour Bicycle Boulevard will provide access to Wichita Transit Bus Routes, including #11 Rock Road, #9 East 13th, #16 East Central, #15 East Harry, and #4 College Hill.

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.

More information about bicycle boulevards can be found in the Wichita Bicycle Master Plan (link below).

<http://www.wichita.gov/Government/Departments/Planning/Pages/Bicycle.aspx>.



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 Armour 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. One of the projects included in the agreement was for design work for multiple bicycle facilities, including the Armour Bicycle Boulevard.

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 Armour Bicycle Boulevard.

On **August 6, 2013**, the Wichita City Council approved the contracts for the development of designs for multiple bicycle facilities, including the Armour 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 Armour Bicycle Boulevard. The City funding of \$500,000 for bicycle projects was included in the Bike Enhancements line item within the [2011-2020 Adopted Capital Improvement Program](#).

On **August 5, 2014**, City staff held an open house with an opportunity for residents and stakeholders to learn about the project and provide feedback. Notices about the open house were hand delivered by City staff members to each of the properties adjacent to the proposed project route. Following the open house event, City staff presented the proposed designs of the Armour Bicycle Boulevard to the District Advisory Board II. The board heard from several citizens and voted unanimously to recommend approval of the proposed Armour Bicycle Boulevard designs with the expectation that City staff would report the results of a review of alternative routes to the board at their regularly scheduled meeting in September.

On **August 7, 2014**, Staff members from Engineering and Planning met with two members of the District Advisory Board II at the Armour Bicycle Boulevard project site and drove the following routes: 1) the route as presented to DAB II at their previous meeting; and 2) alternate routes on the east side of the ditch, including along Lawrence Lane, and the alternate routes from Central to the Future Redbud Path.

On **August 13, 2015**, members of District Advisory Board II, Wichita Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board, and the District II Council Member met with City staff to discuss the findings from the August 7th on-site meeting.

On **August 19, 2015**, the Wichita City Council approved supplemental agreements for design work and construction funding for multiple Wichita bikeways projects, including the Armour Bicycle Boulevard.

On **September 2, 2014**, the City of Wichita District Advisory Board II reviewed the proposed designs for the Armour Bicycle Boulevard and unanimously approved an action reaffirming the proposed Armour Bicycle Boulevard designs with the addition of a shared-use path connection at Lawrence Lane near 9th Street.

In **June 2015**, the City of Wichita issued a solicitation for the construction of the Armour Bicycle Boulevard with the closing date of July 24, 2015.

On **August 10, 2015**, the City of Wichita Board of Bids recommended Pearsons Construction as the vendor to construct the Armour Bicycle Boulevard.

On **August 11, 2015**, the Wichita City Council approved a contract with Persons Construction for the construction of the Armour Bicycle Boulevard.

Project Contacts

If you have any questions or would like additional information about the project designs, 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.