

Wastewater and Stormwater Integrated Management Plan Comment Form

Columbia IMP Vision Statement:

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This plan will help Columbia target investments in our wastewater and stormwater programs to:

- Protect public health and safety
- Improve quality of life
- Provide sustainable service for the future
- Improve water quality
- Achieve regulatory compliance

Please provide your feedback in the form below. Comment period closes Friday, July 13

What parts of the IMP plan have you read? *

- Columbia 5-year Action Plan Table only
- IMP Final Plan only (none of attachments)
- IMP Final Plan and some or parts of the attachments
- IMP Final Plan including all 15 attachments
- None
- Other: _____

Do you live within Columbia city limits? *

- Yes
- No

Do you live in Boone County? *

Yes

No

Does the IMP adequately target the priorities listed above?

Yes

No

If not, what priority was not addressed and how would you recommend it be addressed?

Based on your understanding of the regulatory challenges and existing infrastructure demands the Utilities currently face, is the optimized suite of alternatives an appropriate level of investment for the City?

Yes

No

Does the 5-yr IMP Action Plan adequately identify the actions needed to address the vision for the Sewer and Stormwater Utilities?

Yes

No

If not, what action needs clarification or what alternative action should be implemented within the first five years?

Some watersheds were not included.

What is your preferred communication method for future IMP updates?
(check all that apply)

Press Releases

Social Media

City Source Newsletter

Other: _____

Should the City continue to use the integrated planning process to develop subsequent 5-year action plans to prioritize wastewater and stormwater investments?

Yes

No

Other: _____

General Comments:

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Other: _____

General Comments:

Most of these events are one-sided, and long,,,,,ggggggggggggggg...to the point of making attendees at risk of a parking ticket. For multiple areas, I will no longer attend these meeings

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WILLOW FALLS DEVELOPMENT HAS MASSIVE ISSUES WITH WATER RUN OFF

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Increased flooding potential due to previously ignoring stormwater problems in favor of development was not really adressed. Would like to see more comprehensive information on residential locations prone to flooding.

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Nobody mentioned how the floodplains in Columbia have been increasing in size due to the city's poor planning. A goal to decrease or at least maintain the floodplain size should be included.

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Press Releases

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Other: _____

General Comments:

The city appears to do lots of planning, but in the end, never really does anything. We live at the south end of Ashland Rd. 25 years ago, we never worried about flooding from Hinkson Creek. 1993 was the worst it every got and we didn't flood. During the last 15 years, Hinkson Creek has had to carry ever more storm runoff and we have come very close to flooding several times. The floodplain now encompasses much more of our land than it did when we bought it in 1993. The city seems to favor development over maintenance, including allowing property owners to fill in land next to Hinkson Creek that historically flooded, now making OUR property more prone to flooding. Probably money ended up in someone's pocket to get that done. Our area is never included in central city infrastructure, although we have the same problems here. The city does a lot of generalizing but never really understand problems, excludes any consideration of students, even though they are a large part of Columbia and continues to make those of us in older parts of Columbia subsidize new development. I don't think this plan will make any difference and pretty soon the people in our neighborhood won't be able to afford their utilities and/or will be washed away by Hinkson Creek.

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see below

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See below

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Press Releases

Social Media

City Source Newsletter

Other: Direct email to stakeholders, like the Osage Group of the Sierra Club

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No

Other: _____

General Comments:

The Osage Group of the Sierra Club supports the proposed "optimized investment" plan to gradually increase sewer and storm water fees, though there should be an emphasis on replacing failing sewer lines in the central city, funding more infiltration & inflow projects, backflow prevention and storm water management that protects streams from pollution and damage,

We would like to see more money being allocated for Hinkson CAM projects than the current \$50,000/year which seems inadequate to mitigate the many impacts to this stream.

Fixing old failing infrastructure in the central city is an environmental, health and fairness issue and should be a higher priority than running major sewer lines for new, less dense development on the outskirts of the city. Improvement to old sewer lines needs to be done at a faster rate than 1% a year. Central city density has advantages for efficiency in public services, energy conservation, public transportation, and walkability, but it shouldn't be encouraged until the sewers can handle the increased load and storm water can be managed.

Wet Weather Improvements and Flooding Reduction proposals should include input from the Columbia Climate Change and Adaptation Task Force..

Thank you for the chance to comment,

Dee Dokken, Conservation Chair
Osage Group of the Sierra Club.

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Not enough details on burdens to builders and property owners rights.

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Yes

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Clarify the cost to building and construction. Any cost that get passed down eventually will reach the consumer.

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(check all that apply)

Press Releases

Social Media

City Source Newsletter

Other: _____

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Yes

No

Other: _____

General Comments:

Plan shows a lot of work and planning went into this. And while burying our heads in the sand is not a solution do we have the lobbyist support in place to try and get burdensome regulations overturned or at least prolonged so that we design a plan that we can afford.



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City needs determine those homes which experience storm water entering the basements and same storm water enters the floor drain.

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See comment above regarding storm water entering basements then entering floor drains. City needs to provide residents with guidance and assistance to minimize storm water entering basements and then cost reimbursement to prevent significant flows from entering floor drains when prevention partially helps

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Press Releases

Social Media

City Source Newsletter

Other: email

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Other: _____

General Comments:

Lawrence, Ks. works with residents at their home. They eliminate I/I house by house. The grinder pump solution that Columbia is promoting to prevent back flow into basements does not make sense. Catch the I/I at it's source.



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HDR Scope of Engineering Services, EPA's October 27, 2011 Achieving Water Quality through Integrated Municipal and Wastewater Plans, EPA's June 5, 2012 Integrate Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Planning Approach Framework, Attended all the Workshops, Mayor's Task Force on Infrastructure Final Report dated December 21, 2016, David Sorrell's summary memo to MTFI date February 10, 2016

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Press Releases

Social Media

City Source Newsletter

Other: email - john.conway@bartwest.com

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Yes

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Other: _____

General Comments:

1. On page 4, it is recommended that the Final Report from the MTFI be referenced by https: at the bottom of the page.
2. It is easy for the general public to confuse water quality of streams with the water quality of potable water. It is recommended that a general clarification statement be made in Section 2. to distinguish the two water qualities and that this study does not address potable water quality or drinking water standards.
3. Does there need to be an acronym page somewhere in the report?
4. On page 10, should there be more historical explanation of the CRWWTP and that it is a regional wastewater treatment plant and not exclusive to Columbia. What region does it cover?
5. Should there be an explanation of the MS4 permitting system?
6. Additionally, under this section of the report it explains the current restraints of financing stormwater projects. The MTFI recommendation for stormwater financing should be considered. That recommendation was that the city should collaborate with interested parties to lobby the Missouri General Assembly to enact a "Storm Water Revenue Bond Statue" for municipalities. The interested parties would be the city, city's bond Counsel, Chamber, MML other municipalities in the state that have created a Storm Water Utility and local legislators. This would be a great financing tool similar to what is used by all utilities. A substantial amount of projects could be expedited. The utility would no longer be constrained to have voter approval for rate increases.
7. There are numerous references to a 20 year Planning Period. If bonds are issued to finance the capital projects will they be limited to a term of 20 years? Given the magnitude of the needed investment, it would not be out of order to use 25 year or 30 year bond terms.
8. The three level funding scenarios is a very good idea and approach.
9. Should it be recommended that a Cost of Service Study be completed just for the contractual relationship between the city and the BCRSD? This has its complexities and should uniform throughout its application to each connection point.
10. On page 21 or somewhere in the report, the existing sewer rates and stormwater rates should be revealed.
11. On page 22, it is recommended that this graph be broken down separately for sewer and stormwater. The 2% MHI does not relate to Stormwater.
12. On page 23, it is an understatement that the forecasted annual expenditures will increase gradually over time. Both graphs have steep slopes and is not gradual.
13. Somewhere in the study, a typical year income and expense statement should be represented for the sewer utility and stormwater utility.
14. Page 28 under Building Backup Reduction (Wastewater Collection) – reference the actual city ordinance that was passed. As a note, this was a recommendation from the MTFI.
15. Page 38, reference the I&I Study at the bottom of the page.

16. Thank you for including the MTFI Functional Sewer Utility Recommendations in the study!!!!
 17. I think the level of \$100,000 should be mentioned that the council approved.
 18. To have ongoing Stackholder participation, should there be some mention of stabling an Advisory Board for the Wastewater Utility as well as the Stormwater Utility?
 19. In Attachment D, on page 7 reference a link to the Final Integrated Water Resource Plan report.
 20. Page 31 of the "Columbia 5 – Year IMP Action Plan has a number of misspelled words in the Stormwater Management section in the middle column, Stormwatwer, stormwter, eronsion, policies.
 21. I think the best indicator of the ability to pay or range of higher monthly user bills is indicated by the monthly cost of what the Boone County Regional Sewer District customers pay. How is the demographic makeup of the Columbia customer profile any different the BCRSD customer.
 22. The Missouri Municipal League may have a similar publication as MPUA for rates or average monthly user costs and create another comparative analysis.
 23. The Median Household Income is a gross income statistic and should be "derated" to net income by application of the income tax bracket for the city's MHI. We all pay our bills from our net income!! Providing a definition of MHI might be helpful.
 24. The study does not provide any analysis of the sewer customer increase over time.
 25. In Technical Memorandum 10 on Page 15 a table may be more useful to interpret the data point for the different years and monthly bills or have both.
 26. On page 20 under Residential Billing Impacts – the output data from the City's application of their existing stormwater and wastewater rate models to forecast future residential user rates and bills based on 20 year cash flows develop for each funding level alternative should be summarized in a table(s).
 27. As a future strategy for affordability , the city may want to consider some affordability programs offered by the electric and telecommunications sectors now underway in California.
-

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Yes

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If not, what priority was not addressed and how would you recommend it be addressed?

Generally, I think the plan DOES address the priorities listed, however, I think it falls short on the goal of sustainability over time. I think the funding sources cited are too nebulous; I think the plan fails to adequately address the costs of system expansion that are inevitable; and I think it fails to confront the need to raise overall rates for system improvement which means we will always be fighting for funding without an adequate rate base.

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In terms of the funding level, I would not use the Optimized level, I would go for the next one up - Level 2. I think it's more responsible and can be covered with moderately higher user rates. Also, if I read it correctly, I think there will be additional demands for regulatory compliance that will surface before the end of the 5 year plan period, and although many elements are addressed. I think this plan does a good job at addressing public health and safety. I do not think it adequately provides for elements of economic development that could improve quality of life and sustainability for the future.

What is your preferred communication method for future IMP updates? (check all that apply)

- Press Releases
 - Social Media
 - City Source Newsletter
 - Other: Email
-

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- Yes
- No
- Other:

Yes. I think the five year time frame is manageable and realistic. I think it does a good job at soliciting input from a variety of stakeholders. In the city of Columbia, if you do NOT include all those disparate voices, you are headed for failure, so I say, make everybody sit in a big room for a lot of hours and come up with something that can [pass the sniff test. Otherwise, we will be stuck at ground zero for a long time.

General Comments:

I think it is unfortunate that system expansion is one of the lowest funded categories in this report. I understand that you may have political blowback trying to raise rates, but to me, that is a rationale approach. To offset that impact on lower or fixed income households, I think you significantly increase the pot of money you would make available for utility payment assistance. I think that is what various consultants have recommended over time. I also think you should adopt the Level 2 funding (the higher one) rather than the optimized level and get some of this stuff done in a shorter time frame.

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Affordability

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Press Releases

Social Media

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Other: e-mail

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