



701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: November 17, 2025

Re: Supplemental Memo #2 for Adopting Ordinance Regulating Pedestrian Use of Medians and Island for Enhanced Safety

Impacted Ward: Citywide

Executive Summary

Staff is requesting adoption of pedestrian safety ordinance. At Council's request the City hired George L. Crawford (dba CBB) to conduct the Street and Intersection Pedestrian Safety Study. The ordinance would regulate the use of medians, roadway crossings, and island by both motorist and pedestrians at intersections with any of the following characteristics: speeds of 35 mph or greater, average daily traffic (ADT) volumes of 15,000 vehicles or greater, or where median width of less than 6-foot wide are present

Discussion

The City of Columbia adopted a Complete Streets Policy in 2005 and a Vision Zero policy in December 2016. Since that time, Public Works has pursued safer pedestrian infrastructure in all of our projects. Key achievements funded by the 2015 Capital Improvement Sales Tax (CIST) include:

Major Maintenance Projects

Completed: Rangeline Street and Walnut Street

Scheduled: Garth (summer 2026)

Street Projects along

Completed: Ballenger Lane and Nifong Boulevard

Scheduled: Forum Boulevard (spring 2027)

Intersection Improvements

Completed: Old Mill Creek & Nifong, Sinclair & Nifong, and Vandiver & Parker

Current: Route K & Old Plank Road

Scheduled: Fairview & Chapel Hill (summer 2026)

The 2015 CIST also included \$3.5 million for new sidewalk construction and just over \$1 million for sidewalk major maintenance. Since that time, we have completed sidewalk projects in the following locations:

2015

Old Fire Station #7

Fairview Road

Bernadette Drive



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2016

Avenue of the Columns
Garth Avenue
Elleta Boulevard
Green Meadows Circle
Providence Road Boardwalk Replacement
Hominy Trail East
Manor Drive
Forum Boulevard Pedestrian Bridge

2017

Worley Street Sidewalk and Bus Shelter
Worley Crossing at the Health Department

2018

Clark Lane
Bike Boulevard (MKT to Parkade)
Oakland Gravel Road
Nifong Crossing at Woods Edge
Chapel Hill Road
Sinclair Road

2019

Whitegate Sidewalk and Bus Shelter
Southampton and Sinclair Road - Sidewalk Gaps
Carter Lane
Lynn Street, Oak Street, and Sexton Road

2020

Shepard Boulevard to Rollins Trail
Sinclair Road at Nifong Boulevard
Hitt Street
McKee Street

2021

Leslie Lane
St. Charles Road

2023

North Stadium Boulevard
Oakland Gravel Road
Maguire Boulevard
Sidewalk Renovation Cost Share Projects

2024

Sexton Road
Greek Town
Grindstone Parkway
Scott-Broadway
Sidewalk Renovation Cost Share Projects

This list does not include the ADA sidewalk ramp replacements conducted as part of the pavement preservation program. This process ensures that ramps are inspected during every maintenance project and addressed accordingly.

Starting Soon: St. Charles Road, St. Joseph, and Columbia Gorge Parkway

Scheduled for 2026: Vandiver Drive, Oakland Gravel Road

Additionally, a sidewalk project along Mills Drive near the intersection with Forum Boulevard will be presented for Public Hearing to the City Council at the December 1, 2025, meeting.

The 2015 CIST also included funding for traffic calming and traffic safety projects totaling just over \$3 million. Traffic calming projects completed under the 2015 CIST include the following:

2015

College Park

2016

Rice Road/Kelsey Drive

2017

Stewart Road

2018

Rain Forest Parkway
Rollins Road (East of Stadium)
Sexton Road

2019

Primrose Drive
William Street (South of Broadway)

2020

Holly Avenue
William Street (North of Broadway)/Hinkson Road



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2021

Maplewood Drive
Bray Avenue

2022

Smith Drive/Louisville Drive
Proctor Drive
Ridgemont/High Ridge/Ridgefield
Garth Avenue (South of Broadway)

2023

Garden Drive
Manor Drive
Northland Drive
Audubon/Shepard Boulevard

2024

Spencer Drive
Hanover Boulevard
Hulen Drive

The 2025 traffic calming projects include Walnut Drive, east of Old 63, and Rollins Road, between Fairview and Stadium. We also have an interested parties meeting scheduled for early December regarding a potential White Gate traffic calming project.

The traffic safety funding has predominantly helped provide the match for Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant funding. To date, the City has been awarded two rounds of funding with a grant agreement in the works for the third round, which will help fund improvements to Clark Lane between Woodland Springs and Ballenger Lane. The first two rounds are funding Vision Zero planning-related projects, which include the following:

1. Round 1 - Highway Safety Manual Analysis of several Columbia Transportation Study Organization (CATSO) priority planned projects.
2. Round 1 - Update to the City's Vision Zero Action Plan and Zero High Injury Network Analysis.
3. Round 1 - Comprehensive re-examination of the City's Complete Streets policies
4. Round 1 - Comprehensive examination for leading pedestrian intervals
5. Round 1 - GoCOMO comprehensive transit route study
6. Round 1 - Creation of a Pedestrian Level of Comfort Map Methodology for the City
7. Round 2 - Route B High Friction Surface Treatment demonstration project
8. Round 2 - Business Loop 70 Road Safety Audit (RSA)
9. Round 2 - Updated Equity Analysis
10. Round 2 - Municipal Traffic Offender Program
11. Round 2 - Behavior Modification Strategies

The work above does not include the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods grant the City received to study Business Loop 70. That study is currently underway, with the RSA referenced above set to provide the baseline for the consultant's work.

The Pedestrian Safety Ordinance on the Council agenda this evening is just another method to ensure what Public Works has pursued for over ten years. Complete and safer streets for all modes of transportation.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Minimal

Long-Term Impact: Minimal

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Safe Community, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action
06/16/25	Pre-Council Presentation
12/16/24	Pedestrian Safety Report provided to Council

Suggested Council Action

Adoption of the ordinance