



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: City Utilities - Sewer/Stormwater

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: April 21, 2025

Re: Setting a Public Hearing: proposed design and construction of sanitary sewers to serve the Henderson Branch Sewer Watershed.

Executive Summary

Staff has prepared for Council consideration a resolution setting a public hearing on May 19, 2025 for the design and construction of sanitary sewers to serve the Henderson Branch Watershed. The project location is shown on the attached Location Map. An interested parties meeting was held on January 22, 2025. The resolution estimate for this project is \$5,400,000. Funding for the project would be provided from Sewer Utility enterprise funds with reimbursement of these costs through special connection fees charged to the properties as they connect to the sewer.

Discussion

At the July 1, 2024 City Council work session, the Henderson Branch sewer extension project was discussed. At that time, Council directed staff to proceed with the Public Improvement process.

The Henderson Branch sewer extension would serve approximately 1,415 acres of property around the intersection of Interstate 70 and Highway 40, commonly known as Midway. It would consist of approximately 10,000 linear feet of 15 to 21-inch sewer. See the attached Project Graphics for the proposed alignment. The project would allow removal of existing private treatment facilities that discharge approximately 17,500 gallons per day into the Henderson Branch, tributary to Perche Creek. Elimination of these facilities would improve the water quality of both Henderson Branch and Perche Creeks. The extension will also provide access to public sewer for future development in the area and allow for removal of smaller facilities serving homes and businesses in the area.

Black and Veatch completed a Sewer Master Plan for the City in 1973. The main objective was to identify an area for watershed protection. This would protect human health and the environment by creating a regional sewer collection and treatment system and reducing discharges into local water bodies. This plan was updated in 2007, continuing the concept of regionalized sewer treatment for protection of the watersheds. Since the City's treatment plant was constructed in the early 1980s, more than 100 smaller sewer treatment facilities have been removed from service. The Perche Creek Interceptor is the trunk sewer located in this watershed. The Henderson Sewer extension was included as a future project in the City's 2004 Sewer Master Plan. This project would extend sewer from the existing Perche Creek Interceptor sewer to a point west and north of the I-70 and US-40 interchange.



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Staff conducted an Interested Parties Meeting (IP) on January 22, 2025. Twenty-one (21) people attended the IP meeting. Two people called in that could not attend. Seventy-four (74) visits to the BeHeard page had no comments, and one question was answered concerning annexation. No major opposition was received during the IP meeting. Some owners in the north portion of the watershed requested that the sewer be extended or easements be acquired to the north and east boundary of the Midway Truck Stop (Bechtold Properties LLC). The Project Graphic and cost estimate reflect this change and will be further evaluated during final design.

The estimate for this project is \$5,400,000 to be paid through Sewer Utility enterprise revenue funds with reimbursement by imposing an additional connection fee to properties as they connect to the sewer. This cost recovery method would allow the project costs to be recovered through the end user instead of rate payers bearing the entire cost of the project. The additional connection fee would be the area of the platted property or parcel that connects to this sewer in proportion to the total watershed area served by this sewer extension and its final total cost.

It will be necessary to coordinate the sewer project with the MoDOT Interstate 70 project. While the design of the highway improvement is not available at this time, ensuring the sewer will not have to be reconstructed when the interstate improvements are constructed is essential. Coordination with the Boone County Regional Sewer District (BCRSD) has already started. This sewer extension will provide sewer service outside the corporate limits of the City and therefore will require an agreement with the BCRSD per state law. If directed to move forward with design and construction, staff will also negotiate an agreement with the BCRSD for Council approval.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The resolution estimate for this project is \$5,400,000 and will be paid from Sewer Utility enterprise revenue funds with provision for a special connection fee to property owners to recover costs.

Long-Term Impact: The annual maintenance cost for the sanitary sewer collection system is approximately \$1.00 per foot. This corresponds to an annual cost of approximately \$10,000.00

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Organizational Excellence, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Environmental Management, Tertiary Impact: Economic Development



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Legislative History

Date	Action
02/25/2024	B9-24 Authorizing Amendment 9 to the general cooperative agreement with the Boone County Regional Sewer District to remove assignment of sewer service to properties in the Midway area and financial participation for construction of the Henderson Branch sewer extension project.
09/04/2018	B206-18 Authorizing the acquisition of easements for construction of sanitary sewers to serve the Henderson Branch Watershed. <i>Withdrawn</i>
09/04/2018	B205-18 Authorizing construction of sanitary sewers to serve the Henderson Branch Watershed; calling for bids through the Purchasing Division. <i>Defeated</i>
09/04/2018	PH33-18 Proposed design and construction of sanitary sewers to serve the Henderson Branch Watershed.
08/20/2018	R120-18 Setting a public hearing: proposed design and construction of sanitary sewers to serve the Henderson Branch Watershed.
05/21/2018	B100-18 Authorizing construction of sanitary sewers to serve the Henderson Branch Watershed; calling for bids through the Purchasing Division. <i>Defeated</i>
05/21/2018	B101-18 Authorizing the acquisition of easements for construction of sanitary sewer to serve the Henderson Branch Watershed. <i>Withdrawn</i>
05/15/2017	PH15-17 Proposed design and construction of sanitary sewers to serve the Henderson Branch Watershed.
04/17/2017	R52-17 Setting a public hearing: proposed design and construction of sanitary sewers to serve the Henderson Branch Watershed.
11/07/2016	PH20-16 Construction of the Henderson Branch sewer extension project.
10/03/2016	PH20-16 Construction of the Henderson Branch sewer extension project. <i>Tabled</i>
07/05/2016	PH20-16 Construction of the Henderson Branch sewer extension project. <i>Tabled</i>
06/06/2016	R60-16 Setting a public hearing: construction of the Henderson Branch sewer extension project.
08/17/2015	B232-15 Amending the General Cooperative Agreement with Boone County Regional Sewer District
08/03/2015	R125-15 Engineering Services Agreement with HDR Engineering for the Henderson Branch Sewer Extension Project

Suggested Council Action

Approve the resolution setting the Public Hearing.