



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: April 21, 2025

Re: Public Hearing for the construction of the Garth Ave improvement project.

Executive Summary

Public Hearing for the construction of the Garth Ave improvements between Texas Ave and Thurman St. The initial interested parties meeting for this project was held on August 8, 2023 and a second interested parties meeting was held on February 26, 2025. The total project cost estimate for design, easement acquisition, and construction is \$1,627,700.

Discussion

Garth Ave improvements is a major maintenance street and sidewalk project to be completed between Texas Ave and Thurman St. This project will include reconstruction of failing pavement panels, curbs, and sidewalk sections in various locations along Garth Ave. The project will also include the construction of new sidewalk on the east side of Garth Ave, filling in the two sidewalk gaps between Texas Ave and Thurman St. Finally, the project will include an asphalt overlay along Garth Ave between Texas Ave and Thurman St.

The initial interested parties meeting for this project was held on August 8, 2023. Seventeen citizens signed in at the initial meeting and 8 written comments were received. Comments were in support of the road and sidewalk improvements with concerns about the impacts to the existing trees and vegetation. There were also comments requesting traffic calming for the corridor.

Between the first and second interested parties meeting, staff completed the topographic survey and designed the preliminary plans for the improvements. The preliminary plans include the pavement, curb, and sidewalk repairs and the new sidewalk to fill in gaps along the east side of the road. The plans also include sidewalk bump-outs at various intersections to match the existing bump-outs at Phyllis Ave and at Leslie Ln. The bump-outs provide traffic calming and safety by narrowing the roads at the intersection and providing a shorter distance for pedestrians to cross the road. Speed humps are not recommended to provide traffic calming for the corridor because Garth Ave serves as a north-south traffic corridor allowing both everyday traffic and emergency responders to reach locations throughout the community. While speed humps can be beneficial, they must be balanced with their potential impact on emergency response times. Speed humps are typically more suitable for residential streets with lower traffic volumes, where they have minimal effect on emergency response.

The second interested parties meeting was held on February 25, 2025. Twenty-two citizens signed in at the second meeting and 10 written comments were received. Comments were generally in favor of the project, especially the pedestrian improvements. There were some



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concerns with loss of trees and vegetation from the proposed sidewalk construction. There were also some comments about bicycle symbol and the pedestrian crossings.

The total project cost estimate for design, easement acquisition, and construction is \$1,627,700. The project will be funded with the ¼-cent capital improvement program sales tax and the county road tax funds. Construction on this project is currently scheduled to begin in the summer of 2026.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The total project cost estimate is \$1,627,700 and will be funded with the ¼-cent capital improvement program sales tax and the county road tax.

Long-Term Impact: Sidewalks will be maintained by the adjacent property owners.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

[Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Reliable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

[Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
03/17/2025	R26-25 Setting a public hearing for the proposed construction of the Garth Avenue improvements between Texas Avenue and Thurman Street.
02/25/2025	Second Interested Parties Meeting
08/08/2023	Initial Interested Parties Meeting

Suggested Council Action

Approve the construction of the Garth Avenue improvement project.