# **Public Comment Form**

### Sinclair & Route K Roundabout

We would appreciate hearing your thoughts about this project. You may make comments on this form and leave it with City staff at today's meeting; or take it home to fill out. Please write legibly, include contact information, and sign your comment form.

Comment forms can be mailed to:

Allison Anderson, P.E. Public Works - Engineering Division City of Columbia PO Box 6015 Columbia, MO 65205

Comments may also be faxed to....(573) 874-7266

or forwarded via E-mail to... <u>pubw@CoMo.gov</u> (please include "Sinclair & Route K Roundabout" in the subject line and provide your name and contact information.)

Please send comments by May 23, 2019. Thank you for your input!

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May 15, 2019

Re: Sinclair roundabout

RECEIVED MAY 2 0 2019 PUBLIC WORKS DEPT

Dear Allison Anderson,

The board of the Cascades Homeowners Association would like to comment on the proposed Sinclair Roundabout.

- 1. We request that the proposed Sinclair Road improvements begin its curve farther east and farther south so as to minimize the impact on homes that backup to Sinclair. We request that the trees be preserved as a buffer to protect the homes from road noises and potential light pollution. Beginning it father east and south would also provide a better of margin of safety for children and families that use the walking trail.
- 2. We request that the lights being installed be in keeping with the character of the residential area, and be physically short and of low lumens so as not to shine into the homes that backup to Route K.
- 3. There is a significant water drainage issue beginning just south of the Cascades entrance at Bellingham. The water drainage is on BOTH sides of the tree line. Therefore, we request that City engineers work with the Columbia Area Management company and the HOA in order to suss out the cause of the water issues and work on ways for the road construction to be part of the solution.

Thank you for the consideration,

Kristi Powell President Cascades Home Owners Association

#### Sinclair & Route K Roundabout On Line Comments:

Public Works,

I own and live in the Cascades home that lies closest to the intersection of Sinclair and Route K. I recently attended the public meeting regarding the preliminary plan for the relocation of south Sinclair and the construction of a roundabout at Route K, and I wanted to provide comments.

- 1. I would very much like to see the relocated Sinclair road begin its curve eastward further south, so as to minimize the impact to my property and to the neighborhood walking trail. The current proposal shows the new road in very close proximity to the walking trail, and shows the buffer of trees between the trail and the road eliminated. At the meeting, we were told that the new road, as currently depicted, could be as close as 24 feet from the walking trail. For safety and aesthetic reasons, I would like to preserve this tree buffer and not have the new road begin so close to the walking trail. The tree buffer shields my property from the road. Cars drive very fast up and down Sinclair—they like to hit the gas as they turn off of Route K and speed north. I have young children, and they play in my backyard and ride bikes on the walking trail (along with lots of other families and kids in the neighborhood). The idea that the road will be so close to the trail and my backyard, with no trees in between, is very alarming. I would ask that the buffer of trees please, please be preserved and that the relocated Sinclair begin further south of my property, alongside the park (where the trail is much further from the road).
- 2. The preliminary plan calls for the roundabout to be lighted, but no detail is provided as to the lighting. I know that lighting is required so that drivers can see and navigate the roundabout, but I want to stress that this is a residential area. I would like to see the lighting designed to minimize light pollution and be in keeping with the residential character of the area.

Thank you,

Amanda Miller

#### Hi there,

I live in the Cascades neighborhood and my house backs up to Sinclair Road. I wanted to express some concerns about the proposed changes to Sinclair and the new round-about.

The current design shows the relocation beginning near the Cascades walking trail as it runs along Sinclair, and the removal of buffer trees between the walking trail and the road. I watch as families, kids, and people of all ages walk and bike on our trail daily. Having the road so close to our trail concerns me for their safety, as well as, the increased noise and the removal of trees. I would like to see the relocation of Sinclair begin further south, where the walking trail is further from the road, and would like the buffer trees between the trail and Sinclair preserved as much as possible.

I also have concerns about water drainage in the area. My neighbors and I have had unprecedented amounts of standing water in our yards that has backed up from the Sinclair easement this year. There is no where for the water to drain and south Sinclair itself is often partially covered by water. This has caused a safety issue on our walking trail as slippery moss now covers it and children and adults fall regularly (I see them out my window!). Our yard and several neighbor's yards is almost impossible to mow in certain areas right now. I'm also concerned about a growing mosquito infestation because of standing water. Please make sure the road changes and any tree removal won't make this issue worse. Are there ways to actually improve the drainage with the road design?

Thank you for considering our concerns, Rachel Tiemeyer

I like the current plan (proposal #1) for this roundabout and am glad it's being done as the opening of the new school will greatly increase traffic. At some point, Sinclair road will need to be widened.

john bennett

I think there are more places in need of a roundabout. For example, the road off of Rt. k and Old Plank, bear the new gas station. There are tons of accidents there ! I live in the gates on old plank and don't see a problem with Sinclair, old plank and route k. I recommend above and also paving the decaying road on old plank too!

Amanda Toepk

As a resident of the Oak Park neighborhood and frequent traveler on both Sinclair and Old Plank, I am of the opinion that the intersection does NOT need any improvement at this time, especially for \$1 million+. The traffic turning onto/from Sinclair or Old Plank from K is never backed up, and there is more than enough visibility to slow down if traffic does slow down. I also can't see the logic why re-aligning Sinclair/Old Plank would be beneficial, as those going Northwest would likely take Scott Blvd and those going Northeast would likely take K/Providence. In actuality, the roundabout would significantly limit traffic speed down Route K without any additional benefit to those coming/going from Sinclair or Old Plank. I believe a MUCH better use of the funds (along with likely additional/future funds) would be turning Providence and K into four lanes until at least Hill Creek Rd. Recurrent issues I've encountered include 3-4 dozen cars lined up at the 163/Providence light EVERY MORNING from 7-9am (perhaps a roundabout would be better here?). Also, cars turning left from southbound K onto Hill Creek stop traffic routinely, with no way to go around with only a 2-lane road. 4 lanes would VASTLY improve the danger zone that is the 4-->2 lane transition on South Providence where a daily wreck is expected. Based on utility alone, I'd be shocked to see a roundabout put in at Sinclair/Old Plank. But including the cost of \$1.2 million, it would be irresponsible of Public Works to proceed. Thanks for taking the time to read, and I'd highly recommend a utilization study prior to any construction.

Blake Welschmeyer

The intersection of K and Old Plank is much more dangerous. Put it there instead of on K and Sinclair. I've lived here for 20 years and have seen many bad wrecks at Old Plank and K. The increased traffic has also lead to excessive speeding by many.

James Aldridge

Is there a plan to address the grade of the hill west of this proposed roundabout? While I understand how a roundabout could potentially alleviate traffic when the new middle school is open I do have concerns about a roundabout at the bottom of a steep hill during inclement weather. This hill is already problematic when there is snow/ice on the roads. In order to make it up the hill traveling west you need to have a little momentum to not slide back down or let your tires spin. Also, when traveling down the hill or east I think that sliding directly into a roundabout could be dangerous for traffic. Please share the plans you have to address this roundabout and snow/ice.

Kylene

I agree that the Roundabout is a good idea. I live in Smith Hatchery road and there is no good alternate route to get into town. What is your proposed route for people on Old a Plank and Smith Hatchery while this work is being done? How long will the work take?

Mary DeFroy

I love roundabouts!! My only suggestion would be to budget for ad and social media post about the rules of roundabouts. I think the more education people receive would improve people's perceptions and increase safety!

Kelly MacNevin

I believe a roundabout will be beneficial for two reasons: will improve safety and reduce the speed for travelers on that road and improve traffic flow. I hope this project can move forward with no issues.

Jered Bare

I like the moving of Sinclair to align with Old Plank, however I worry about traffic coming from the west over the hill and there being accidents.

ASHLEY BROWN

Support

Jon Law Hardin

There are plenty of places for a traffic circle. Out in the country along a rural highway that actually functions as a highway from a community (McBaine) is not one of them.

Jessica L Orsini

My name is Kelley Wampler and my husband and I live at 7103 Madison Creek Dr., a house which backs up to the new Sinclair road project. We were invited to and attended the "Interested Parties Meeting" on May 9th. Thank you for the opportunity to give feedback on the development of the roundabout and surrounding area.

Overall the project looked like a good solution to the increasing traffic flow and desire to connect Old Plank Rd. and Sinclair. Below are a couple of pieces of information/concerns we have as homeowners close to the project. At the meeting, I appreciated the engineers discussion with me of these topics and their openness to make changes where possible with the homeowner's needs in mind.

1. Changing the curve of the new Sinclair footprint: If there is a way for the curve (that is behind our house and the Miller's house) to start a bit further south or to angle in more slowly than currently planned that would be helpful. In the proposed drawing it cut more into the land on the back of our houses and the tree line, which is very significant to the water run off there and privacy to our houses.

2. **Removal of trees:** If at all possible we would like as many of the large trees along Sinclair to be retained.

3. Light Pollution: We are concerned about the lights being installed around the roundabout and the light pollution to our yards and homes. If there is a way to minimize that we would appreciate it.

4. **Water runoff/drainage:** Currently the water run off and drainage of this area is poor. I am concerned that the new plan, which has a "wetland" area between the old Sinclair and new Sinclair will have a lot of standing water which is not good for public health, mosquitos etc. There are many children and families that use the walking trail through that area and play at the park. One of the engineers mentioned to me that there was another option. My preference is for an option that directs water concisely to the creeks by route K or another underground option rather than draining into an open area over a lot of ground.

Thanks again for considering these changes. Our contact information is:

Kelley and Ryan Wampler

Hello, I missed the meeting a few weeks ago but wanted provide input on the roundabout and changes to Sinclair Rd. I am also a resident of the Cascades neighborhood and my house backs up to Sinclair.

1. I would prefer the least amount of change to the current Sinclair rd route as possible. It appears the proposed route will take a fair portion of the park and go near the current walking path. I would like to keep as much as the current park space as possible and have the road curve toward the roundabout closer to the intersection itself.

2. Please consider extending the current earth berm in the park to provide an additional buffer from the road and road noise. Also, I would request a plan for mature vegetation to be placed between any new section of the road and the walking path.

3. Please limit light pollution and minimizing the use of lights and by making sure they are directed appropriately.

4. Please make the roundabout as small as possible to still allow a reasonable flow of traffic. The current plan does not look large on paper it when I go to the park and look at the impact it is surprising how much space it will take.

Thanks for your consideration

Jeremy Gilion

Good morning, Allison -

Thank you for meeting me at the property last week. Per your request, I am writing my remaining concerns in an email for inclusion in the packet delivered to the Columbia City Council:

1) As you know, the primary theme of adjacent landowner concerns has been how the surface water will be handled since this has been a chronic problem since Sinclair Road was paved and The Cascades subdivision was platted. Several of us have spent considerable money over the years to have our properties contoured to handle storm water more effectively. Following the public meeting at RBE on 5/9/19, a proposed surface water retention cell was moved away from existing residences and relocated south of Route K. Thank you for listening to our concerns. New storm sewers, drawn to show water being dumped back out on the surface, are still shown that way on the Preliminary Plans posted online. It has been discussed multiple times that those storm sewers need to stay underground until they reach their final exit points at the water retention cell so the water can get to the creek without exacerbating the "swamp" that exists at the current intersection. Following our meeting last week, I understand that you will be pursuing a revision to contain all newly constructed storm water drains underground until the pipes reach the retention cell. I still don't see this change reflected in the online plans.

2) I am concerned about your statement that the overgrown fence row and dead trees that currently lies east of Sinclair Road will not be removed when the existing asphalt road bed is removed and seeded in grass. Since our current driveway is being redesigned to reduce our two-access circle drive to a single driveway, the new access point will effectively be a cut through this unsightly, rusty fence row with our house isolated on the other side. This is

unacceptable and, in my opinion, will defitely hurt the curb appeal of our home and reduce it's value. I also have concerns about maintenance of the newly planted grassy lane (where the existing roadbed of Sinclair Road will be removed) - which I'm told will be maintained by Columbia Parks & Recreation will - since it is essentially our front yard. If that strip of grass remains separate from the functional park by being isolated behind a strip of overgrowth that is not removed, I believe maintenance will suffer. This new grass, a visual extension of our front yard, will need to be mowed and maintained to residential standards to prevent additional overgrowth or neglect has the potential to also decrease the value of our property.

I am asking:

1) the rusty, overgrown fencerow and dead trees be removed when the existing asphalt is removed and the retired roadbed is re-graded and seeded; and

2) either the strip of new grass to be planted where the existing roadbed of Sinclair Road is removed in front of our property be conceded to our ownership so we can ensure maintenance to residential standards, or such assurance of adequate maintenance be given by the City;

3) all newly constructed storm drains have water directed through underground pipes all the way to the proposed retention cell.

Thank you,

Cynthia Burlison (formerly Cynthia Pepmiller) Owner, 6991 Sinclair Road