

Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: March 16, 2026

Re: Authorizing a bid call for construction of the Forum Boulevard between Chapel Hill Road and Woodrail Avenue improvement project

Impacted Ward: Multiple Wards

### Executive Summary

Authorizing a bid call through the Purchasing division for the construction of the Forum Boulevard between Chapel Hill Road and Woodrail Avenue improvement project. An Interested Parties (IP) meeting was held on November 30, 2023, and a public hearing was held on April 14, 2024.

### Discussion

The Forum Boulevard corridor is a minor arterial which carries north/south traffic through Columbia. The project will include the following road and sidewalk improvements:

- Adding a driving lane in each direction to the current two-lane segment of the corridor. This matches the four-lane section to the north and south, not only providing for demand growth in the long-term, but as one of the few Hinkson Creek crossings on the City's west side, should offer a benefit of improved emergency vehicle response times.
- Constructing a new bridge over Hinkson Creek ensuring that it will not result in a rise of potential flood elevation, and preferably will contribute to a lessening of high-water impacts.
- Constructing intersection upgrades at several locations to provide for better traffic operations and improved safety. These intersection improvements include roundabouts to provide traffic control and calming at Katy Lane and at Woodrail Avenue/Crestwood Lane; and an upgrade of the existing signalized intersection at Chapel Hill Road including adding thru-lane capacity to allow simultaneous left turns for the east-west traffic movements and pedestrian refuge islands.
- Managing the access at various locations on the corridor that experience higher accident rates.
- Improved accessibility for non-motorized transportation modes (bicycle & pedestrian) along the entire corridor.
- Providing improved natural treatment of storm drainage runoff on the corridor, especially the "first-flush" discharges that are generated in the early stages of rain events.
- Extending the pedestrian tunnel for the MKT trail to accommodate the road improvements.
- Constructing retaining walls to minimize impacts to adjacent properties.



The estimated total project cost is \$14,300,000 and includes design, easement acquisition, and construction. The project will be funded with the ¼ cent Capital Improvement Program (CIP) sales tax funds. Construction is planned for the spring of 2027.

This is an increase from the previous estimate of \$12,300,000. Public Works will cover the increase from capital improvement sales tax and transportation sales tax funds.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The total project estimate is \$14,300,000 and will be funded with the ¼ cent Capital Improvement Program (CIP) sales tax.

Long-Term Impact: Routine Maintenance

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Inclusive and Equitable Community, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

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

Legislative History

Date	Action
04/15/2024	PH10-24 Proposed construction of roadway, intersection, sidewalk, and bridge improvements along Forum Boulevard between Chapel Hill Road and Woodrail Avenue.
03/18/2024	R56-24 Setting a public hearing: proposed construction of roadway, intersection, sidewalk, and bridge improvements along Forum Boulevard between Chapel Hill Road and Woodrail Avenue.
11/30/2023	Interested Parties Meeting
10/17/2022	B290-22 Authorizing an agreement for professional engineering services with Engineering Surveys & Services for design of improvements along Forum Boulevard between Chapel Hill Road and Woodrail Avenue.

Suggested Council Action

Authorize a bid call through the Purchasing division for the construction of the Forum Boulevard between Chapel Hill Road and Woodrail Avenue improvement project.