



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: September 15, 2025

Re: Grissum Radio Tower Replacement Agreement

Executive Summary

Authorize the City Manager to execute a cooperative agreement with the County of Boone to construct a new communications tower on the City's Municipal Power Plant property.

Discussion

Renovations to the Public Works fleet, transit, and street maintenance facility at 1313 Lakeview Avenue, commonly referred to as the Grissum Building, has been a component of both the 2015 Capital Improvement Sales Tax (CIST) ballot project list and the 2025 CIST ballot project list (\$11,900,000 total). Public Works completed a comprehensive master plan for this work and has been working with the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) on a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant agreement which will commit over \$23 million to the transit portion of these renovations. However, further progress has been stalled somewhat due to an existing communication tower onsite that serves Central Electric Power Cooperative (CEPC). The existing tower is an old guidewire type tower which limits Public Works' ability to do the renovations necessary. This existing tower also houses existing County equipment as part of its communications infrastructure for public safety purposes. CEPC has a 1960s era agreement with City Utilities (Water & Light) which requires the City to provide them a tower for this equipment. Therefore, staff has been working for quite some time to find a way to move forward and still meet the requirements of this agreement.

Luckily, due to the age of the existing tower, Boone County Joint Communications (BCJC) desires to construct a new, more modern, communication tower in this general area to better serve the community. Therefore, staff has been working with Boone County since May of 2023 on the agreement attached herein. The new BCJC tower will be located on the City's Municipal Power Plant property east of Mores Lake, west of Bowling Street, and south of Ashley Street. The City is providing a permanent and temporary construction easement to the County for this work and the County will construct a three-legged radio tower in this location. The tower will be between 280 and 300 feet in height and include the associated equipment necessary to operate such a structure. The County will construct this at their expense. The City will provide electric and fiber to the site with the County paying the ongoing fiber cost associated with their equipment and the City paying the ongoing electric, CEPC will continue to pay their fiber costs. The City will be responsible for the costs associated with relocating CEPC's equipment to the new tower and the eventual demolition of the old tower on the Grissum site.



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Following Council approval and signature by the City Manager the cooperative agreement will move to Boone County for their approval.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Equipment relocation and tower demolition costs paid for using Capital Improvement Sales Tax funds dedicated to the renovation of the Grissum building.
Long-Term Impact: Ongoing electric and fiber costs associated with the new tower and its equipment.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

[Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)
Primary Impact: Safe Community, Secondary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary
[Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)
Primary Impact: Inter-Governmental Cooperation, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action

Suggested Council Action

Authorize the City Manager to execute a cooperative agreement with the County of Boone to construct a new communications tower on the City's Power Plant property.