

TO: CATSO Coordinating Committee

FROM: CATSO Staff

SUBJECT: Public Hearing: Request for CATSO Major Roadway Plan (MRP) Reclassification of West Ash Street from Major Collector to Neighborhood Collector

DATE: May 22, 2025

CATSO previously received a citizen request to give consideration to reclassifying West Ash Street (the section from Providence Road to Clinkscates Road) from a major collector to a neighborhood collector street. The section between Garth Avenue and Providence Road is technically East Ash Street, but was included in the request.

The CATSO Major Roadway Plan currently classifies Ash Street (which extends from Tenth Street to Fairview) as a major collector street. Ash has been a collector on the plan for more than 30 years.

The CATSO 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) gives a definition of a major collector as follows:

Typically 2 or 4 lanes with up to 90 feet of right-of-way. (the City's design standards for major collectors do not have four-lane options and recommend 66-76 feet of right of way). These roads are designed for lower capacity and provide local access and circulation to the arterial network. One local example of a major collector is Creasy Springs Road. Ash Street is cited as an example of a major collector in Columbia Imagined, the city's comprehensive plan.

The MTP defines a neighborhood collector as:

Typically 2 lanes with up to 66 feet of right-of-way. These are low-volume, low speed roads that provide access for local residential traffic to the major collector and arterial network. Texas Avenue is an example of a neighborhood collector.

This request was made in part in response to the planned Ash Street improvement project, which would construct infrastructure improvements to the corridor between First Street and Clinkscates Road.

The project design includes construction of an 8-foot wide sidewalk along the north side of Ash Street to be utilized by both pedestrians and bicyclists. It also features construction of a 5-foot wide sidewalk along the south side of Ash Street to fill in sidewalk gaps. In addition, the design includes a continuous bike lane along the south side of Ash Street. Finally, the design includes crosswalks with flashing beacons at the intersection with Redwood Road, Anderson Avenue and Alexander Avenue.

Traffic counts from MoDOT for Ash Street for 2024 and 2023 showed average daily traffic (ADT) volumes to be in the range of 400 to 2,499 vehicles. The period 2020-2022 count were in the range of 2,500 to 4,999 ADT.

Recent traffic counts received from the City of Columbia Public Works department are shown in a separate attachment. Average ADT from the six locations along the Ash Street corridor is 5,633.

Surveys done during the preparation of the CATSO 2055 MTP included a summary of the multiple responses received, which included: "It is suggested that West Ash should be designated a neighborhood collector street, rather than a major collector street."

Previous Technical Committee Action

The Technical Committee discussed this issue at their February 11, 2025 and May 7, 2025 meetings. No formal action was taken by the Committee.

Suggested Coordinating Committee Action

After holding a public hearing, pass a motion to either change the CATSO MRP West Ash Street designation to neighborhood collector or to keep the current major collector street designation.

In addition, staff have had discussions of a study that would examine the system of streets between Business Loop 70 and Broadway. Ash, Worley, Garth, West, and Clinkscales are all major collectors with similar land use characteristics. A study would look at how these roadways, including the arterials roads Providence, Broadway and Business Loop, move traffic and people through the area. If the Coordinating Committee agrees, it should direct staff to develop a scope of services for consideration.