



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: February 2, 2026

Re: Authorize a Resolution of support for the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission's Improve I-70 Project 4A (Missouri River to Route B) and begin pursuit of construction enhancements similar to those authorized by previous Council agreement associated with Phase 1 of the Improve I-70 project.

Executive Summary

Authorize a Resolution of support for the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission's Improve I-70 Project 4A (Missouri River to Route B) and begin pursuit of associated construction enhancements. These are proposed to be, at a minimum, integrated enhancements with a previously estimated total cost of \$2,500,000. It is the intent of the City to re-engage and grow the community institutions and partners that can provide cost share for the enhancements.

Discussion

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) is in process of completing Phase 1 of the Improve I-70 project. This project includes construction of an additional travel lane in each direction on I-70 between the I-70/Highway 63 connector interchange in Columbia and the Kingdom City interchange. Along with the interstate improvements, many of the bridges and other accesses are being modified to accommodate for the widening. The City and its partners had an opportunity to fund enhancements to these bridges and accesses that are above and beyond MoDOT's standards of construction in order to provide a uniqueness to Columbia as motorists travel through the City along the interstate. The enhancements are intended to provide a welcoming atmosphere such that motorists will want to stop in Columbia instead of simply drive through it.

The overall proposed enhancements included both integrated and nonintegrated components. The integrated enhancements were considered improvements that need to be constructed as part of the design-build project. These components would have been costlier to complete after the Improve I-70 construction project is completed and included items such as form liner, colored concrete, signage, fencing, and lighting. The nonintegrated enhancements include improvements that would be more beneficial to be completed once the Improve I-70 construction project is completed and can be constructed as time and funding allows. The nonintegrated enhancements include items such as landscaping and artwork.

The City Council approved a cost and licensing agreement with MoDOT on April 7, 2025 which included funding to complete these integrated enhancements for the improvements being completed around the Interstate 70/Highway 63 Connector, the St. Charles Road interchange, and the Route Z interchange.



The Columbia Chamber of Commerce worked with the City, Boone County, the University of Missouri, and other interested parties to determine the desired enhancements for each location and to raise funds for the project. The Lochmueller Group was hired to develop enhancement options and estimate the associated costs. An interested parties meeting was held on May 17, 2023 and a public hearing was held on June 20, 2023 in order to initiate the discussion of the proposed enhancements.

The cost estimate for completing the Phase 1 integrated enhancements was \$1,744,241 and the Phase 1 nonintegrated enhancements was \$2,142,928. The Phase 1 total estimate for the design and construction of the enhancements was \$3,887,169. Of that Phase 1 integrated amount, \$600,000 was contributed by the University of Missouri, \$300,000 was contributed by Boone County, and, to date, \$115,000 was contributed from other sources. The City was asked to fund the difference which is currently estimated at \$729,241. The cost apportionment agreement was only for the completion of the integrated enhancements for Phase 1 of the Improve I-70 project.

The City and its partners are now actively pursuing another enhancement agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission regarding the Columbia-area bridges included in their Phase 4A project unifying the look of all the overpasses and signifying to travelers they're in Columbia. This overall process will include a robust engagement process with the City's major community institutions and businesses to encourage their participation in a significant cost share building on the success of Phase I's partnerships. The Improve I-70 project spans from State line to State line and is truly a once in a lifetime project. A comprehensive enhancement project will have remarkable impact on how the rest of the State of Missouri and United States see Columbia, MO as a destination for dining, outdoor recreation, festivals and events, sports, shopping, arts and culture, and history.

Phase 4A provides an opportunity for enhancements at the Paris Road overpass, the Providence Road interchange, the Stadium Boulevard interchange, and the Midway interchange along with some other associated improvements throughout the corridor. It is desired that the same types of enhancements be used at these locations to ensure a consistent look through the corridor. The preliminary cost estimate for enhancements in Phase 4A is \$2,446,960 for the integrated components and \$1,296,240 for the nonintegrated components. The total estimate for the Phase 4A enhancements is \$3,743,200. However, the City has engaged the Lochmueller Group to update their original estimate based on MoDOT's design/build team's preliminary plans.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The City's match will be determined by partnerships and is undetermined at this time.

Long-Term Impact: Long term maintenance costs of any enhancements.



Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

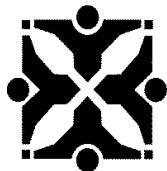
Primary Impact: Reliable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Inclusive Community, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities

Legislative History

Date	Action
12/15/2025	B328-25 Authorizing a municipal agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission associated with improvements to the Interstate 70 corridor from the Missouri River to Route B (Paris Road).
05/05/2025	B97-25 Authorizing a cost share agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission for additional pedestrian improvements associated with the I-70 and US 63 interchange reconstruction project; amending the FY 2025 Annual Budget by appropriating funds.
04/07/2025	B59-25 Authorizing a cost and licensing agreement for project enhancements with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission associated with the Interstate 70 and U.S. Highway 63 connector reconfiguration project; amending the FY 2025 Annual Budget by appropriating funds.
10/07/2024	R174-24 Authorizing an agreement for professional engineering services with Engineering Surveys & Services for design-build plan review associated with the I-70 and US 63 interchange reconstruction project.
08/19/2024	R145-24 Authorizing application to the Missouri Department of Transportation for cost share partnership funding for the proposed St. Charles Road bridge replacement project and I-70 and US 63 interchange reconstruction project.
12/18/2023	B318-23 Authorizing a municipal agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission associated with improvements to the Interstate 70 corridor, between Route B and U.S. Route 54 in Kingdom City, and including improvements to the U.S. Route 63 connector and interchange.
06/20/2023	PH25-23 Consider approval of enhancement design elements associated with Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissions' Interstate 70 and U.S. Highway 63 connector reconfiguration project.



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06/05/2023	R83-23 Setting a public hearing: consider approval of enhancement design elements associated with Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissions' Interstate 70 and U.S. Highway 63 connector reconfiguration project.
09/19/2022	REP76-22 Highway 63/I-70 Interchange and I-70 Corridor Recommendations.

Suggested Council Action

Approval of the Resolution of support for the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission's Improve I-70 Project 4A (Missouri River to Route B) and authorization to pursue an associated enhancement project.