

Attachment

**Sedgwick County Commissioners Recommended Plan Changes,  
November 4, 2015**

In 1985, Sedgwick County voters approved a countywide one-cent sales tax to help maintain or construct road projects as well as reduce property tax. The one-cent sales tax revenue distribution formula is determined by statute and is based on local jurisdiction property tax mill levy rates as well as population. It is imperative that this revenue stream remain and that it continues to be distributed as it has been since 1985. Sedgwick County funds portions of the Kellogg improvement project among other road projects but also funds agencies and services to the benefit of all Sedgwick County citizens.

**I WOULD SUGGEST THE LANGUAGE BE PLACED UNDER:**

Pg. 3 under: **Setting Our Public Infrastructure Investment Priorities**

and

Pg. 39 under: **Infrastructure Investment Decision-making Framework**

**Submission from  
Commissioner Jim Howell**

# Suggested Changes

Submission from  
Commissioner Richard Ranzau

## Plan Introduction and Overview

### Plan Introduction

#### Why This Plan

The State of Kansas requires cities and counties to have a comprehensive plan in order to exercise authorized development reviews, and to guide spending decisions on public infrastructure and facilities have joint subdivision regulations.

The current joint comprehensive plan for Wichita and Sedgwick County dates back to 1993. A new plan is needed in an era of diminishing revenues and fiscal constraint.

A new joint comprehensive plan is needed to guide the future growth, development and public infrastructure investment decisions of Wichita and Sedgwick County (our community) over the next 20 years. Accordingly, this new plan is called the Community Investments Plan ... a framework for the future.

This Plan will better guide the long-term capital improvement programs for Wichita and Sedgwick County in the overall Plan context of:

- Promoting economic growth and job creation

- ~~Advancing community quality of life and safety~~
- ~~Creating a community that will attract and retain future generations~~

## Setting Our Public Infrastructure Investment Priorities

Over many decades, investment in public infrastructure has shaped our community's economy and quality of life. This investment has also influenced private investment decisions in Wichita and Sedgwick County.

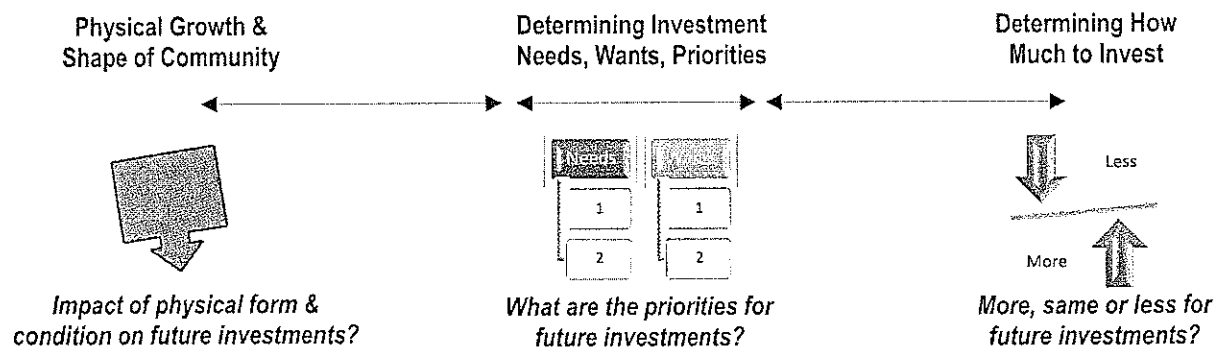
Current and future generations in Wichita and Sedgwick County will live with the infrastructure investment decisions we make today, just as we live with those decisions of past generations.

The primary public infrastructure investment challenges our community faces over the next 20 years are determining:

- How best for the City of Wichita to grow
- How much and where best to spend or not spend in terms of future City and County public infrastructure and facility investment
- How to close the long-term gap between our future investment needs and wants and our projected revenues (ability to pay)

The following graphic illustrates three key inter-related elements that ultimately shape our public infrastructure and facility investment decisions.

### *Community Investment Plan Development – Key Interrelated Elements*



## Developing the Plan

# Future Land Use Policies

## Introduction

The purpose of the Future Land Use Policies is to encourage orderly growth that is market driven and protects individual property rights. Everything contained herein should only be used as a “guide” and should never be viewed as the “Bible”. Protecting individual property rights and providing market driven growth must be paramount. ~~meets future market demand while considering impacts to taxpayers, developers, the environment, and the community as a whole. These policies reflect the 2035 Plan Vision Statement, Core Community Values, and Plan Guiding Policy Principles and guide future land use through the ongoing comprehensive planning process.~~

The Future Land Use Policies are comprised of the following *four components* which are described in this section of the Plan:

C. Focus funding on infrastructure and facilities that will maintain vibrancy, promote growth and secure quality of place in the Established Central Area of Wichita.

D. Review existing public infrastructure and facility assets to determine those assets which should no longer be retained by the City or County due to duplication/redundancies with private sector facilities, functional obsolescence, and/or changing community investment priorities.

## Plan Element –

### Transportation

**Plan Context & Perspective** - The realization of the 2035 Plan Vision Statement is dependent upon our community having a safe, reliable and well-connected transportation system that strategically supports economic growth and community quality of life. The term “transportation” refers to the movement of goods, people and information. Our transportation infrastructure constitutes a basic yet essential, community-sustaining investment.

Wichita’s freeway and bridge infrastructure are in good condition overall with adequate system capacity. The County’s road and bridge infrastructure are in very good repair and condition. However, decades of under-investment and deferred maintenance in Wichita’s local road system has required the City to develop an enhanced maintenance strategy for its local road infrastructure. Additional expenditures are needed to maintain Wichita’s local road system.

~~Decades of under-investment in Wichita’s long-established public transit system have~~  
~~has resulted in minimal service levels, low ridership and future financial instability.~~  
~~Elected officials should be prepared to make important and necessary changes even if~~  
~~they are unpopular. Modifications should be made so that the public transit system~~  
~~can be operated with existing funding sources. Funding from road and bridge projects~~  
~~should not be diverted to provide additional funding for public transit nor should tax~~  
~~increases be sought for this purpose. Serious consideration should be given to~~  
~~privatizing the public transit system. Expanding the current system into a regional~~  
~~transit system would be costly, inefficient, and imprudent.~~

~~Additional investment in Wichita’s public transit system would be needed in order to~~  
~~achieve the system’s financial stability and retain public transit service.~~

For Wichita, the level of investment priority over the next 20 years varies across the major transportation infrastructure categories as follows:

~~Low priority - new bypasses~~ public transit

~~Low-medium priority - freeway enhancements - new bypasses~~

~~Medium-high priority - public transit~~ free way enhancements

~~Very high priority - local streets and bridges~~

### ***Our Transportation Goals & Strategies***

**Goal 1 - Preserve and maintain a safe, cost-effective and reliable transportation system that strategically supports the economic growth, vitality and quality of life aspirations of our community.**

#### **Strategies:**

- A. Develop and implement a transportation asset management system that effectively uses available funds.
- B. Make transportation infrastructure investments, particularly integrated transportation technology enhancements, that support and reflect Wichita's 2035 Future Growth Concept and Urban Infill Strategy.
- C. Allocate additional funding (without any tax increase) for the long-term maintenance and replacement of Wichita's existing local road and bridge infrastructure.
- D. Invest in new or existing transportation infrastructure that directly supports additional job growth, especially of an advanced manufacturing or high-tech nature.

**Goal 2 - Improve and increase the movement of goods, ~~and people and information with better connectivity and mobility options in our community.~~**

#### **Strategies:**

- A. ~~Develop and implement a community wide, public and/or private broadband infrastructure and high speed internet access plan to support future job and employment growth.~~
- B. Develop and implement a long-term public transit system plan that reflects the realistic needs of our community and fits within current funding constraints.
- C. ~~Improve our community connectivity and safety through the implementation of~~  
~~Wichita's Bicycle Master Plan and Pedestrian Master Plan, and promoting linkages~~  
~~to surrounding cities in the County. Note: Walking and bicycling are certainly good~~

forms of exercise and recreation. However, given the regional climate and dispersed community development they are not viable transportation options and therefore should not be considered part of the transportation system.

- D. Coordinate and integrate local transportation infrastructure plans with the Wichita Area Metropolitan Area Organization (WAMPO) long-range regional transportation infrastructure plan.

## **Plan Element –**

### **Water, Sewer & Stormwater**

**Plan Context & Perspective** - The realization of the 2035 Plan Vision Statement is predicated upon our community securing a long-term water supply, and having well-maintained water treatment/distribution, sewer collection/treatment and stormwater/flood management systems. These constitute essential, community-sustaining services. They represent a basic yet essential public investment that supports future job growth and a strong economy.

Decades of under-investment and deferred maintenance in Wichita's water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure requires the City to be aggressive in protecting what assets it already has (especially replacing aging pipe infrastructure) and making future water and sewer facility enhancements to meet required treatment and discharge standards. Additional investment in our community water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure and facilities is necessary ... securing a long-term water supply is critical to the future of our community.

The funding/financing, maintenance, replacement and enhancement of our public water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure and facilities is a *high-very high investment need* for our community over the long term.

#### ***Our Water, Sewer and Stormwater Goals & Strategies***

**Goal 1** - Provide a well-maintained long-term water supply, treatment and distribution system that supports the economic growth, vitality and quality of life aspirations of our community.

#### **Strategies:**



**Plan Context & Perspective** - Having a “quality living environment and active, healthy lifestyles with access to arts, culture and recreation” is specifically referenced in the 2035 Plan Vision Statement. One of the five Plan Guiding Policy Principles is to Invest in the Quality of Our Community Life. It is evident that community quality of life investments are important to residents of our community and are an essential means of supporting future job growth and a strong economy.

Arts, culture and recreation quality of life investments refer to capital, maintenance and operational spending in the general categories of parks and open space; recreation facilities; libraries; and, arts, culture and entertainment. From a public infrastructure perspective, appropriately funding, maintaining and expanding our arts, culture and recreation quality of life investments is an overall *medium-high priority investment need* for our community over the long term.

### ***Our Arts, Culture and Recreation Goals & Strategies***

**Goal 1 - Improve quality of life and healthy lifestyles for all through an accessible system of premier arts, culture, library, recreation and open space facilities.**

#### **Strategies:**

- A. Review and update the *Wichita Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan* to ensure that future planned parks/open space and recreation facility investments (capital, maintenance, operations) strategically integrate with County regional parks and open space investments, and remain consistent with our community priorities and willingness to pay.
- ~~B. Develop and implement a joint City/County integrated cultural arts/quality of life facilities investment plan to achieve better planning, coordination, integration and maximization of City and County quality of life community investments.~~
- C. Utilize relationships with private and not-for-profit organizations and secure dedicated funding sources for the construction, maintenance and operation of our quality of life investments (includes park/open space, recreation, library and cultural arts facilities).
- D. Employ best management practices/systems to properly maintain our existing quality of life facilities.
- E. Review and update the Wichita Public Library System Master Plan to ensure our city-wide system of library facilities and associated technologies remain relevant to the evolving library needs of our community.

- ~~F. Develop and implement a “built environment” strategic plan that better promotes healthy community lifestyles, neighborhood and community connectivity, resource conservation, protecting the City’s urban forest in public spaces, and multiple-use integration of our parks, open space and stormwater management systems.~~
- G. Establish a task force to ~~i~~ Identify opportunity areas and regulatory adjustments necessary to support agri-tourism in the unincorporated areas of Sedgwick County.

## Plan Element –

### Public Safety

**Plan Context & Perspective** - Having a “safe community” is specifically referenced in the 2035 Plan Vision Statement. From a public infrastructure perspective, appropriately maintaining and expanding our fire, police and EMS facilities is a *high priority investment need* for our community over the long term.

#### ***Our Public Safety Goals & Strategies***

**Goal 1 - Provide efficient and effective police, fire and EMS public safety service facilities that meet current and future community needs.**

#### **Strategies:**

- A. Identify opportunities for collaborative partnerships, joint-funding and joint-use agreements, and sharing of facilities between public safety government agencies.
- B. Evaluate the merits of City/County public safety services consolidation as an option to provide for more coordinated and cost-effective public safety facility operations and service delivery.
- C. Ensure that service and facility planning for police, fire and EMS service delivery addresses current and future community needs, adapts to future patterns of growth, and supports neighborhood-based safety initiatives within the City of Wichita.
- D. Establish performance measures that evaluate functional relevancy, need and effective utilization of our public safety service facilities.

## Plan Implementation