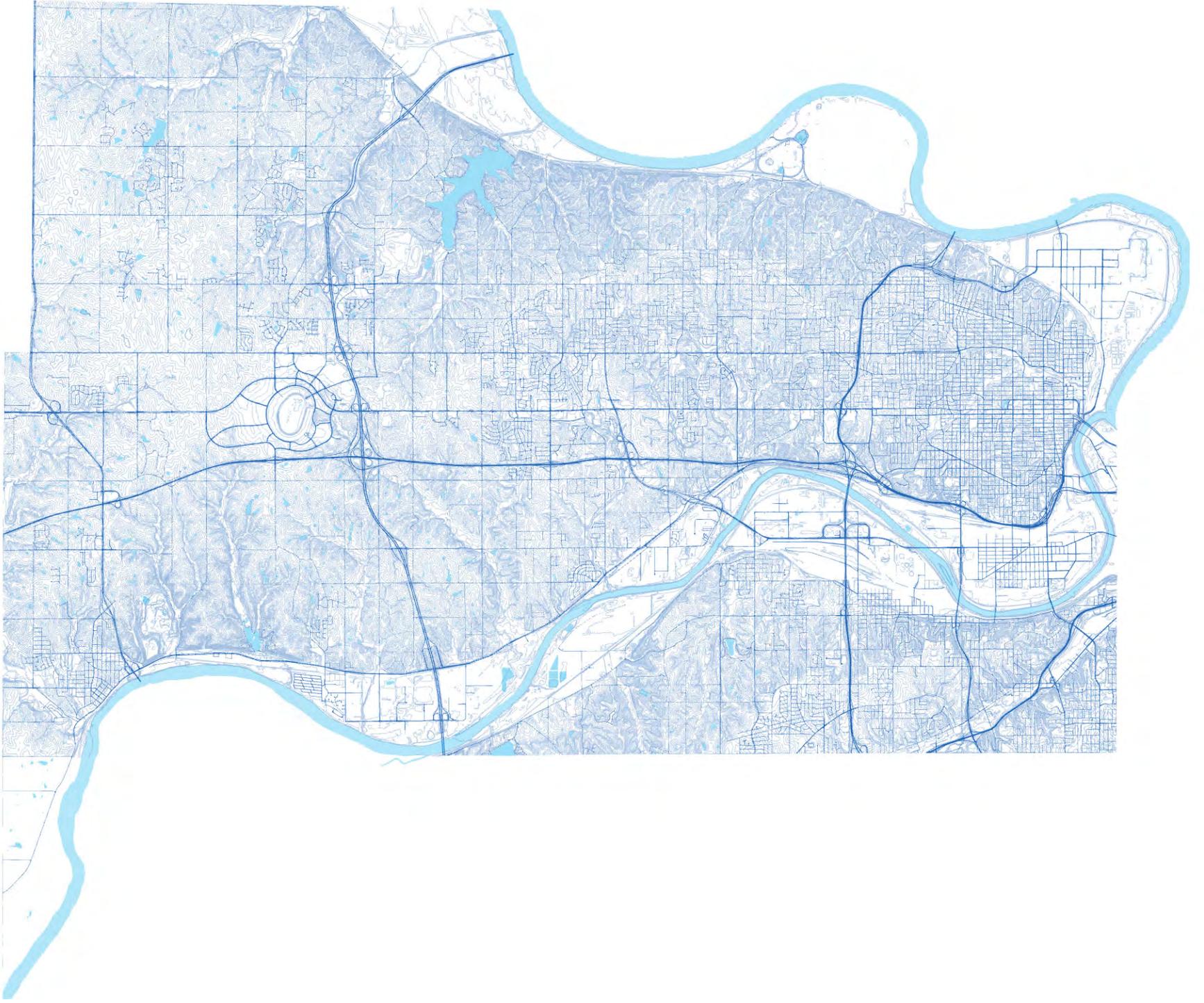


2020 Annual Report **Public Works**

Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas



PAUSE-CRAWL-WALK-RUN

OUR VISION

Preserving the past, improving today, and building the future.

OUR MISSION

With the right culture, provide efficient, reliable, and sustainable infrastructure to best serve the community and protect the environment into the future.



Public Works 2020 Roundtable

WHAT'S YOUR WHY

PRESERVING THE PAST, IMPROVING TODAY, BUILDING THE FUTURE

Public Works Roundtable, 2020



The Public Works team would like to thank you for your patience, support, and criticisms in 2020. This annual report highlights the year in public works and how you empowered us to deliver services you expect and deserve.

I include our thanks for the criticisms, too, as it is frequently valuable input that I want you to know we evaluate and often use to improve how we serve you. One of our four goals is to build “Trust in Public Works,” so we are listening and working diligently to align over 300 employees toward one vision and mission and one set of goals that we believe will result in great services.

In 2020, I believe we displayed excellent character, professionalism, and flexibility through our efforts and focus on the work at hand. Just like our brothers and sisters in other departments, we made many adjustments, sometimes daily, for periods of the year. Even with many vacancies, we were able to hold operations together and deliver services, and in a few cases, at an excellent level. We learned some things about our capabilities and how we can do the work differently and maybe better.

In addition to the ever-important, everyday asset maintenance activities that keep our community on a stable footing, we did innovative things like partner with

the private sector to pilot a program that helps us manage our fleet more effectively. We also continued the ongoing planning and design for significant improvements to the Kaw Point Treatment plant, developed a smart process for building the annual capital improvement program, and co- led the Turner-Diagonal Reconstruction project.

We stayed focused on developing leadership capacity at all levels and a culture that fosters excellence. We continue to play a major role in the facilities preparation and logistics of COVID-19 testing and vaccine centers, which has, of course, been a very challenging mission.

We are here for you, and although I am pleased with the pace of the progress this team has made over the last few years, we are not satisfied. We are challenging ourselves and our processes.

It is a privilege to serve you, and we look forward to serving you even better in 2021.

Sincerely,

Jeff Fisher
Director of Public Works

PUBLIC WORKS DIVISIONS

Buildings & Logistics

The Buildings & Logistics (B&L) team oversees, manages, and performs maintenance on all Unified Government-owned and operated facilities to provide accessible and convenient locations for residents and visitors. B&L is also responsible for providing comfortable and safe environments for employees. The 89 facilities they manage include police buildings, fire stations, recreation centers, the Wyandotte County Public Health Department, the Criminal Justice Complex, Juvenile Services Center, Court Services, the Wyandotte County Courthouse, Memorial Hall, and City Hall. Their 2020 operating and maintenance budget was approximately \$6 million.

Engineering

The Engineering team is responsible for the design, construction supervision, and inspection of streets, bridges, traffic signals, storm sewers, and sanitary sewer infrastructure projects in Kansas City, Kansas. If it looks like construction, Public Works' Engineering team is involved. Engineering's 2020 operations and maintenance budget was approximately \$9 million. Their team includes the County Engineer, the City Traffic Engineer, the City Stormwater Engineer, Project Engineers, and Project Managers. They are also responsible for establishing systems for managing complex projects and supporting other Unified Government Departments.

Fleet Services

The Fleet Services team coordinates the maintenance and operation of more than 1,300 cars, trucks, commercial construction equipment, tractors, trailers, and emergency vehicles operated by the Sheriff's Office, Police Department, and staff. More than 30 employees are involved in equipment repairs, engine overhauls, and maintenance like tune-ups, brake jobs, clutch and transmission repair & replacement, electrical system diagnostics, hydraulic system repair, and tire maintenance. Their operations and maintenance budget in 2020 was approximately \$3 million.



PUBLIC WORKS DIVISIONS

Solid Waste Management

The Solid Waste Management team oversees all solid waste programs, including contracted residential and recycling collection, household hazardous waste disposal, recycling & yard waste disposal, e-waste collection, the development of green activities, and clean-ups for events like Earth Day in collaboration with organizations like the Environmental Protection Agency, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and Livable Neighborhoods. The Solid Waste Management division's six team members also assist residents, business, and community organizations with graffiti removal and neighborhood clean-ups. Their 2020 operations and maintenance budget was approximately \$8 million.

Street Maintenance

The Street Maintenance team is responsible for providing Kansas City, Kansas with safe, clean, and visually attractive roads. To achieve this, the Street team provides pavement maintenance, mowing of publically-owned properties, signage services, snow removal, street sweeping, and right-of-way management for more than 2,400 lane miles of improved roadway and alleys. The division is one of the first responders to emergencies and is the primary resource for everything related to roads. They also provide support for special events such as neighborhood clean-ups, parades, and other community activities. Their 2020 operations and maintenance budget was approximately \$7 million.

Water Pollution Control

The Water Pollution Control team is responsible for providing sewer service, protecting water quality, managing stormwater runoff, and ensuring compliance with Federal regulations regarding water pollution in Kansas City, Kansas. Unlike other departments and divisions, Water Pollution Control receives its funding through two enterprise sources: the Sanitary Sewer user fee and the Stormwater Utility user fee. For more than 100 years, residential customers, businesses, and visitors have benefited from reliable and cost-effective wastewater & stormwater treatment. Their 2020 operations and maintenance budget was approximately \$28 million.

BY THE NUMBERS



606,000

Pounds of trash removed



82

ADA ramps installed



473

Graffiti spots cleaned



63

Lane miles of street paved



23,730

Potholes patched



373

Miles of pipe cleaned



BY THE NUMBERS

8,621

Million gallons of wastewater treated



660,293

Gallons of fuel used



10,224

Vehicles repaired



2,205

Tons of asphalt used



16,890

Vehicles washed



6,174

Tons of salt used during snowstorms





Juvenile Services Center, 2020

Buildings & Logistics

Led by John Kelly, Public Works' Buildings & Logistics (B&L) team oversees, manages, and performs maintenance on all Unified Government-owned and operated facilities on behalf of Kansas City, Kansas and Wyandotte County residents.

Their goal is to provide accessible and convenient locations for residents and visitors while simultaneously providing comfortable and safe environments for employees.

With 89 facilities to maintain, the B&L team is always hard at work. Some of the buildings they're responsible for include police stations, fire stations, recreation centers, the Wyandotte County Public Health Department, the Criminal Justice Complex, the Juvenile Services Center, Court Services, the Wyandotte County Courthouse, City Hall, and the iconic Memorial Hall.

Their 2020 operations and maintenance budget was approximately \$6 million.

2020 was an incredibly challenging year for the B&L team, as they played a critical role in outfitting public spaces with COVID-19 safety signage,

sanitation stations, thermometers, and new air purification systems. The B&L team also worked tirelessly to completely remodel and prepare the County's three COVID-19 testing and vaccination centers. Their quick work contributed to Wyandotte County being one of the first municipalities in the country to open a fully functional, self-sufficient indoor testing and vaccination facility.

In addition to their exceptional service throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the B&L team also welcomed three new buildings to Public Works' list of facilities: Fire Station 12 in western Kansas City, Kansas, the Juvenile Services Center in Downtown, and the Merc Co+Op grocery store.

Among those projects, the Juvenile Service Center is noteworthy because of the improved services it provides to at-risk youth and their families.

The facility has 40 individual sleeping rooms with windows for natural light, a school area including four classrooms, and a Commons area for dining and group activities. There is also an exterior halfcourt basketball area, tables, green space, an indoor gymnasium with a basketball court,

and a 38-foot wide overhead door that opens to an outdoor courtyard.

The center's purpose is simple: provide young women and men with hands-on rehabilitation, family-centered care, and transitional programming in a manner that is more conducive to learning and growth. The center also ends the previous practice of young adults sharing a detention center with adult offenders.

Another exciting development is the addition of a long-awaited Downtown grocery store: the Merc Co+Op. The Merc Co+Op is of particular significance to residents and businesses in the eastern portion of Kansas City, Kansas, because it has helped close the food desert gap.

Keep reading to learn more about Fire Station 12, the Downtown grocery store, and what Public Works' Engineering team was up to in 2020.



Fire Station #12



Opened in August of 2020, the new Fire Station 12 at 2913 Hutton Road in Kansas City, Kansas, expands safety coverage to 1,939 rooftops in a 4-minute travel time that was not previously covered.

The new Fire Station features ten bedrooms, six bathrooms, and a full kitchen. In an effort to make the building as energy efficient as possible, it has LED lighting and a state-of-the-art HVAC system.

In addition to serving residents, the new station also protects the health of firefighters who work and live there. Some of the features include new bunker gear, cancer prevention technology, and ventilated lockers.



The Merc Co+Op

After many years of planning and hard work, The Merc Co+op's Downtown grocery store opened to the public in late July of 2020.



The project was made possible by a public-private partnership that will help bring additional investment into the area. The three-year management agreement requires the co-op to pay property taxes, utilities, maintain regular hours of operation, and offer other community benefits.

The approximately \$7 million project was funded through the Hotel Revenue Fund at \$3.2 million and \$1.6 million from sales and property tax from the Downtown Grocery Tax Increment Financing District expenditures.



Engineering

Led by County Engineer Troy Shaw, Public Works' Engineering team is responsible for the design, construction supervision, and inspection of streets, bridges, traffic signals, storm sewers, and sanitary sewer infrastructure projects in Kansas City, Kansas. Engineering is also responsible for managing the city's right-of-way.

If it looks like construction, Public Works' Engineering team is involved. Engineering's 2020 operations and maintenance budget was approximately \$9 million. The division has 16 team members, including the County Engineer, the City Traffic Engineer, the City Stormwater Engineer, Project Engineers, and Project Managers.

Working together and coordinating with numerous Unified Government departments and agencies, the Engineering team is responsible for establishing systems for managing complex projects and planning for the city's infrastructure future.

2020 was an exciting year for Engineering, especially on the asset management, systems, and future planning fronts. Of particular note

are the division's new integrative approach to street preservation, the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) award to the UG, and reconstruction of the Turner Diagonal Interchange in record time.

In the 2016, 2018, and 2020 county-wide surveys, residents in Kansas City, Kansas, placed street maintenance at the top of the priority list. Engineering takes this feedback seriously, and they've worked hard over the previous several years to stretch dollars further, create efficiencies, and raise the city's Pavement Condition Index.

In addition to increased funding, new pothole patchers, and data-driven decision-making, Engineering began focusing on the City's Stormwater Management Program. Water is the natural enemy of pavement, and the longer it is allowed to remain on the street, the more it will shorten the street's lifespan.

To help better protect streets and increase the benefit of things like mill & overlay activities, Engineering submitted a comprehensive program application to the EPA for WIFIA

consideration. WIFIA is administered by the EPA and provides low-interest rates with long-term repayment terms and great deferred payment opportunities.

By leveraging WIFIA to finance and complete large stormwater projects, the Engineering team can help extend the life of pavement in large parts of the city.

In addition to the potential for an integrated WIFIA approach, the team also wondered if reassessing the existing pavement preservation cycle method could help focus resources and improve long-term outcomes. As will be covered in a later article, the answer is a clear "yes," and it comes via a data-informed approach called Geographic Clustering.

Continue reading to learn more about Geographic Clustering, reconstruction of the Turner Diagonal, and find out what Public Works' Fleet Services team was up to in 2020.





Looking North in Kansas City, Kansas, 2020

Turner Diagonal



The Turner Diagonal Interchange sits at the country's crossroads – about a two-day drive from 85 percent of the US population and serves 65,000 vehicles per day.

The previous interchange, which featured large, winding on and off-ramps, was reconfigured into a Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI). The removal of the old ramps opened up 300 acres of previously unused land for economic development and job creation while providing better access to businesses and improving safety for motorists and pedestrians.

In addition to these improvements, the project added a new shared-use-path and sidewalk from Riverview Avenue through the new DDI that connects to existing sidewalks at State Avenue. The project also addressed freight parking at the truck staging facilities west of the interchange.

The Turner Diagonal Project was awarded a federal BUILD grant for \$13 million, which made up 46 percent of the project funding. The remainder of the project costs were funded by commitments from UG, KDOT, and NorthPoint Development.

Using a design-build approach streamlines project delivery through a single contract between the owner and the design-build team. Combining designer and contractor skills allowed for positive collaboration, which resulted in fast project delivery, more efficient use of materials, and lower labor costs. Ultimately, the Turner Diagonal Interchange was reconfigured in about six months, which reduced the impact of closures on commuters, residents, and small businesses.



Area Clustering

Wouldn't it be nice if there was a way to focus street preservation efforts, coordinate with utilities, and reduce the inconvenience of construction activity for residents and businesses? The Engineering team certainly thinks so!



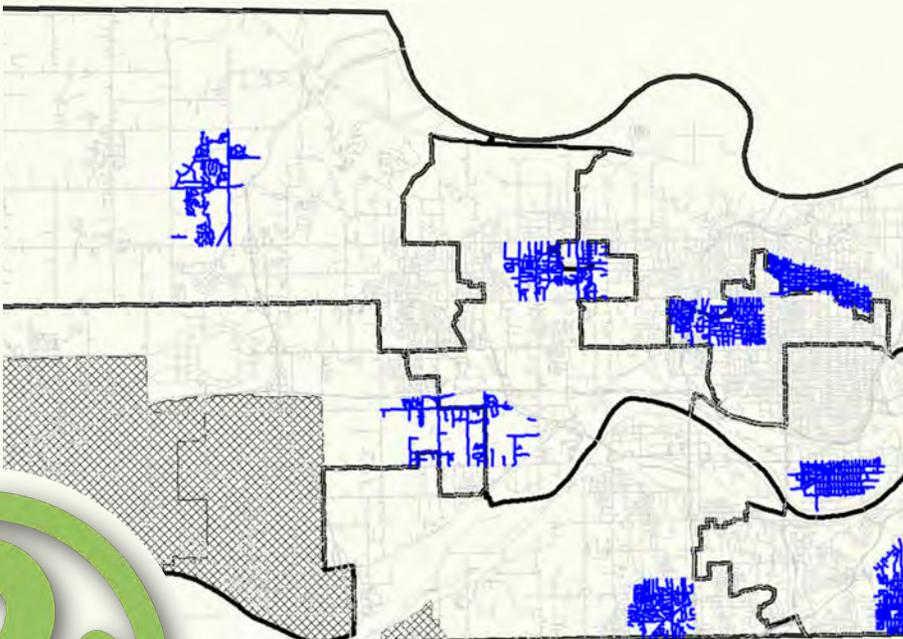
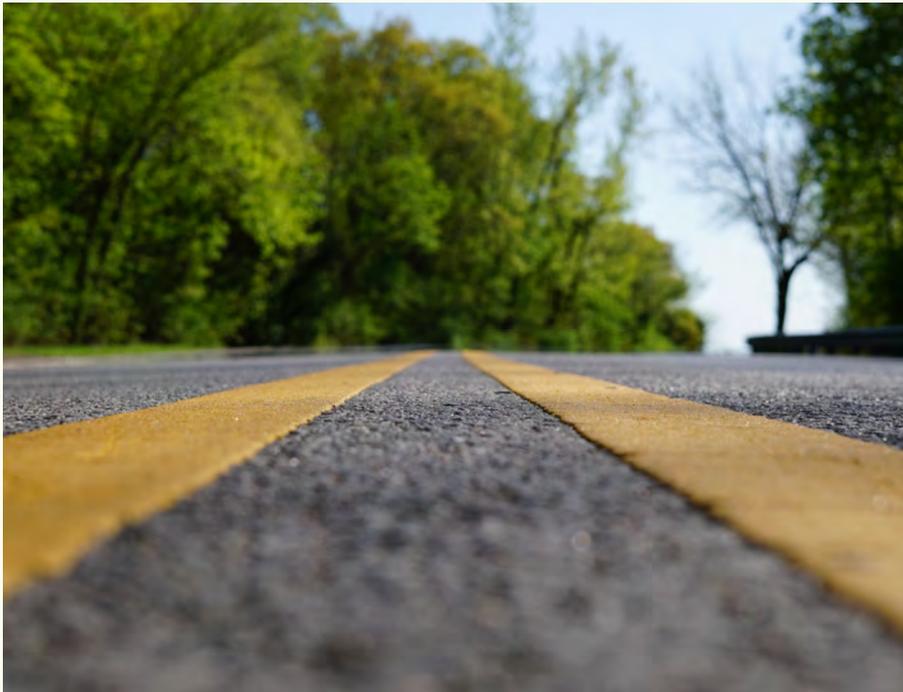
Every two years, the Unified Government surveys residents to determine what they think we should be focused on. In both the 2018 and 2020 surveys, residents were clear: street maintenance is the top priority. Public Works takes this feedback to heart, and the Engineering team has been hard at work finding ways to stretch dollars further, improve efficiencies, and find ways to improve our city's more than 2,400 lane miles of road.

In 2020, Engineering introduced a new approach to the preservation process that creates a 3-year work cycle for street maintenance activities which allows more work to be completed, reduces the burden of construction inconveniences, and increases coordination between contractors, utilities, and agencies.

Called Geographic Clustering, the new approach leverages previously-gathered pavement assessment data, known future project needs, and utility needs to identify specific project locations. Resources are then focused on a single area as pictured in the map to the left.

For residents and businesses, Geographic Clustering's benefits are straightforward: more improvements, greater efficiency, and a predictable cycle of work.

Gone will be the days when residents and businesses had to experience the inconvenience of construction activity that felt like it would never end.





Maintaining a RideKC Bus, 2020

Fleet Services

Led by Jeff Miles, the Fleet Services team coordinates the maintenance and operation of more than 1,300 cars, trucks, commercial construction equipment, tractors, trailers, and emergency vehicles operated by the Sherriff's Office, Police Department, and city employees.

When it comes to keeping the Unified Government's fleet on the street, more than 30 team members collaborate to perform equipment repairs and engine overhauls. They also provide maintenance services like tune-ups, brake jobs, clutch and transmission repair & replacement, electrical systems diagnostics, hydraulic system repair, and tire replacement.

Fleet's 2020 operations and maintenance budget was approximately \$3 million.

2020 was an exciting year for the Fleet team, as it was the first full year using a new single-shift organizational structure. In previous years, Fleet Services operated using a 3-shift working model for team members. Change is never easy, but the Fleet crew worked hard during 2019 to implement an overlapping single-shift approach.

The transition's main goal was to improve service for Fleet Services' customers.

Throughout this process, Fleet tracked key performance indicators to determine if the new single-shift model had the desired impact. Were customers better served? After crunching the numbers, the answer is a resounding "Yes!"

By focusing all of their talents into a single-shift model, they successfully reduced overtime costs, improved employee morale, and dramatically increased the quality of services provided to other departments. In 2020, the total overtime paid was \$73,978.97 — a \$79,290.59 decrease from 2019. That's a 49% savings in just one year!

Productivity also improved. In 2019, the peak of vehicles repaired in a single day was 13. By 2020, the peak more than doubled to 33 repairs in a single day!

Never content with the status quo, the Fleet team has worked hard to find operational efficiencies that extend well beyond reducing overtime costs.



This year, they also worked hard to audit vehicle maintenance schedules and reconsider how the Unified Government purchases and maintains equipment like police cars and 4x4 work trucks used by the Street Maintenance team and the Parks & Recreation Department.

Working in conjunction with Public Works' Finance Officer, Jeff and his team identified an opportunity that would allow the Unified Government to lease new vehicles, reduce maintenance costs, and return profits from the sale of leased vehicles back to the Fleet Services team for reinvestment.

Continue reading to learn more about the Enterprise lease program, reducing overtime, and find out what Public Works' Solid Waste Management team was focused on in 2020.

Enterprise Lease



In late 2019, the Fleet Services team began exploring the idea of creating a stand-alone fund that would support the UG's large fleet of vehicles, control costs, and build equity.

By late 2020, the Fleet Services Enterprise fund was formally created. The new fund capitalizes on private sector buying power and municipal discounting to build equity that taxpayers can benefit from.

The new Services Enterprise was started by selling old and non-functional fleet vehicles and then using the start-up funds to lease 18 new vehicles. After two years of service, these vehicles will be returned to the leasing agency and sold. Profits from the sales will be used to lease new vehicles.

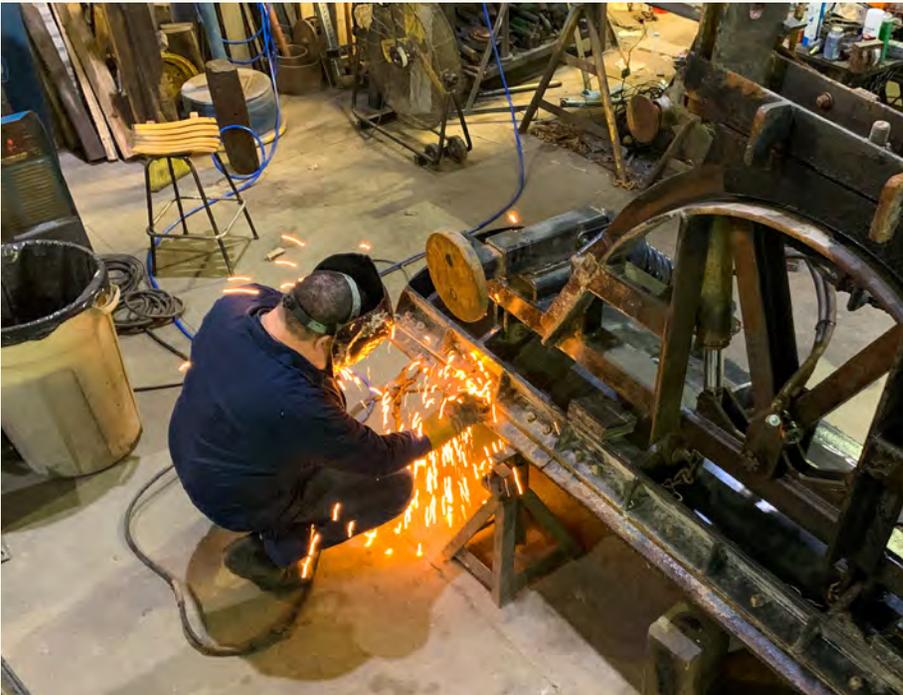


Reducing Overtime

As part of their efforts to increase customer service and efficiencies in both the “light” and “heavy” garages, the team decided that transitioning away from the traditional three-shift working hours model to a single shift model could achieve both.



The transition to the single-shift model, where employees were available Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM occurred in 2019. While the benefits were clear to the team, the data validating their decision didn't come back until 2020. With the new data available, the team learned their efforts paid off. Customer satisfaction increased, and overtime decreased by \$79,290.59 from 2019. That's a 49% savings in just one year!



Solid Waste Management

Led by Public Works' Deputy Director, Mike Tobin, the Solid Waste Management team is responsible for managing and administering all the programs related to solid waste, including weekly residential trash and recycling collection, household hazardous waste disposal, and graffiti removal.

Comprised of six team members, the Solid Waste team also develops green activities, organizes e-waste collection events, and organizes clean-ups for Earth Day occasions. Their 2020 maintenance and operations budget was approximately \$8 million.

They also contribute significantly to the SOAR (Stabilization, Occupation & Revitalization) Initiative's 5-year plan to confront some of the most pervasive challenges in the appearance, communication, and safety of Wyandotte County neighborhoods.

The SOAR Initiative's goal is to address vacant and abandoned homes, property maintenance, loose dogs, poorly maintained streets, a lack of trails and sidewalks, mowing frequency, graffiti, and more.

2020 proved a challenging year for the Solid Waste team, as so much of their work involves hands-on interactions with residents and businesses.

COVID-19 restrictions dampened their ability to hold regular Household Hazardous Waste disposal events, Electronics recycling events, and it impacted their ability to assist in opening the County's Recycling & Yard Waste Center.

Despite those challenges, the team worked closely with the Public Health Department to create re-opening plans that would allow the public to dispose of hazardous waste, recycling, and yard waste while keeping everyone safe from COVID-19.

A long-standing community favorite, the Household Hazardous Waste Collection center provides residents with a way to safely dispose of material that is not accepted as a part of their regular trash or recycling collection.

During 2020's limited events, the Solid Waste team collected 111 used tires, 3,000 pounds of paint, 8,400 pounds of bulk latex paint, and more than 1,800 pounds of flammable liquids.

In addition to helping residents dispose of hazardous materials safely, the Solid Waste team also provides graffiti removal assistance.

Like many cities in the United States, graffiti is often used to degrade the beauty and character of neighborhoods and community spaces. More often than not, graffiti strains household budgets and local small businesses by adding unnecessary and unexpected costs.

To help, the Solid Waste team limits these costs by removing graffiti at no charge or providing residents and businesses with fresh paint. Despite 2020's challenges, the team still cleaned up 437 graffiti spots.

Keep reading to learn more about household hazardous waste disposal, graffiti removal, and find out what Public Works' Street Maintenance team was up to in 2020.





Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Event, 2020

Hazardous Waste Disposal



Given the in-person nature of Household Hazardous Waste disposal events, COVID-19 made scheduling and running 2020's events especially challenging. In previous years, members from the Solid Waste and Street Maintenance teams would work together to host 4-6 yearly events for residents to dispose of common hazardous materials like used motor oil, paint, car batteries, old tires, solvents, fertilizer, and gasoline.

Despite the challenges, the team was able to put together two opportunities for residents in 2020. During these limited events, Wyandotte County residents safely disposed of 111 used tires, 3,000 pounds of paint, 8,400 pounds of bulk latex paint, and more than 1,800 pounds of flammable liquids.

Regular and more frequent disposal events will return in 2021.



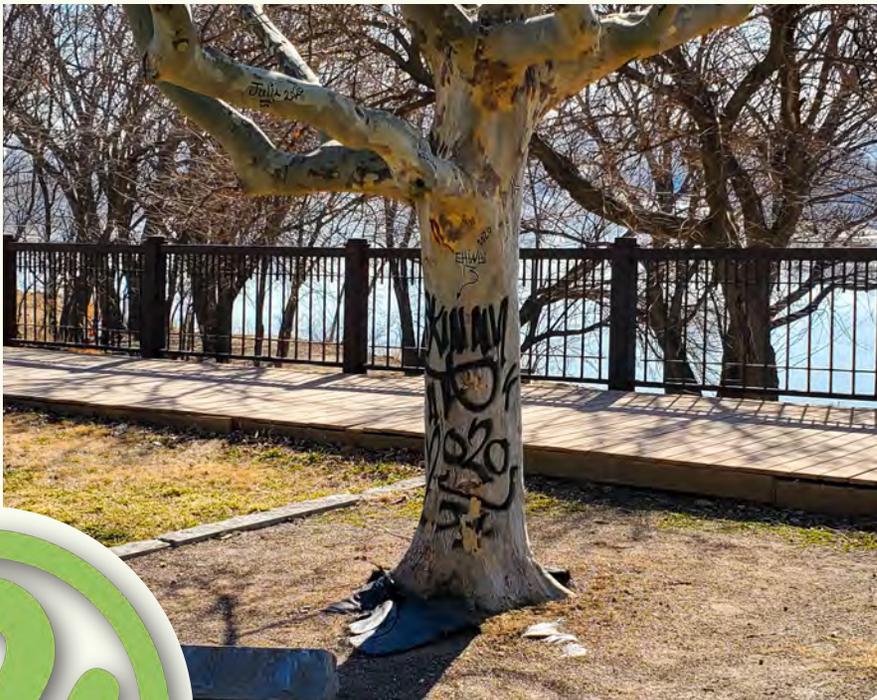
Graffiti Clean-Up

What's the difference between a mural and graffiti? According to residents and businesses, graffiti isn't something anyone wants to see!



Like surrounding communities, graffiti often harms neighborhood and community spaces' beauty and character. The price tag for cleaning it up is often much more than small businesses and families can afford.

In 2020, the Solid Waste team helped residents and businesses clean up more than 430 graffiti spots by providing paint and labor at no charge.





Patching Potholes, 2020

Street Maintenance

Led by Vinny Billaci, Public Works' Street Maintenance team is responsible for providing Kansas City, Kansas, with safe, clean, and visually attractive roads

More than 70 team members collaborate to provide pavement maintenance, mowing services, sign installations/upkeep, snow removal, street sweeping, and right-of-way management for 2,400 lane miles of improved roadway and alleys.

In addition to this work, the team is also one of the first responders during an emergency, is the primary resource for all things roads, and supports special events such as neighborhood clean-ups, Adopt-A-Spot, SOAR activities, parades, and numerous community functions.

Their 2020 operations and maintenance budget was approximately \$7 million.

Over the past several years, the Street team has been heavily focused on improving their organizational structure, updating old systems, improving processes, and putting new equipment to work for residents and businesses.

Part of improving processes includes hands-on training for team members, whether it involves new pothole patchers or Commercial Drivers License test preparation. But that's not all! In 2019 the Street team also introduced their first-ever Annual Snow Roadeo.

The first Snow Roadeo's objective was straightforward: build camaraderie among team members, ensure equipment is in good working order, and provide a safe training environment for rookies and veterans to sharpen their skills for handling the winter months.

Held in the early Fall every year over the course of a week, the training includes members from the Street, Buildings & Logistics, Fleet, Water Pollution Control, and Parks & Recreation teams.

In 2020, the program provided a much more challenging course for drivers to maneuver, including tighter turns, advanced backing, and more cones – which represent parked vehicles!

2020's training program also included the addition of neighboring cities. The Public Works Departments from

Prairie Village, Edgerton, and Leawood also joined the Snow Roadeo to prepare their drivers and exchange knowledge with our team.



But, snow removal isn't the only thing the Street team focuses on. They know potholes are a major headache for commuters, so a great deal of time and effort is put into patching!

In 2020, the Street team patched a total of 23,730 potholes on roads and alleyways around Kansas City, Kansas. Although potholes will always be with us, the Street team remains committed to reducing their inconvenience by responding quickly and using efficient processes to ensure repairs last much longer — in some cases until the next overlay or rebuild.

Continue reading to learn more about the Snow Roadeo, pothole patching, and find out what Public Works' Water Pollution Control team was up to in 2020.

Snow Rodeo



The Snow Rodeo is a Public Works favorite when it comes to training. First held in 2019, the Snow Rodeo is a week-long training event held in the fall for members of the Street, Fleet, Water Pollution Control, and Parks & Recreations teams to prepare for the upcoming winter weather season.

The Snow Rodeo builds camaraderie among team members, ensures equipment is in good working order and provides a safe training environment for rookies and veterans to sharpen their skills for handling the winter months. In 2020, the training was expanded to include teams from Prairie Village, Edgerton, and Leawood as an opportunity to exchange information, encourage friendly competition, and encourage everyone to pursue new modes of multi-jurisdictional partnerships.



Pothole Patching

As long as there are paved roads, there will be potholes. Moisture is the natural enemy of pavement, so the Street team stays busy all year, working hard to patch them and keep roads as smooth as is possible for commuters.



Last year, they patched 23,730 potholes in Kansas City, Kansas. Crews prioritize activity based on the number of potholes in an area and the overall traffic volume using both of the city's new patchers. With onboard attachments like a jackhammer and tack oil application wand, the new patchers allow team members to apply longer-lasting and more uniform repairs than the traditional "throw and roll" to road surfaces.



Water Pollution Control

Led by Kurt Winters, Public Works' Water Pollution Control team is responsible for providing Kansas City, Kansas with reliable, high-quality sewer service, protecting water quality, and ensuring local stormwater runoff management.

For more than 100 years, their core business has been to protect public health and provide cost-effective waste & stormwater treatment.

To accomplish this, more than 120 team members collaborate across multiple segments, including construction, maintenance, treatment, and administration.

The Division's 2020 operations and maintenance budget was \$28 Million.

Unlike other Unified Government divisions and departments that may be funded through sales or property taxes, Water Pollution Control receives its funding through two enterprise sources: the Sanitary Sewer user fee and the Stormwater user fee.

Last year was an extremely important year for the Water Pollution Control team, especially on the sanitary sewer

user fee front. Since 2013, the Unified Government (UG) has been working closely with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) on finalizing a 25-year sewer investment plan that meets the financial and environmental needs of ratepayers.

Called a Consent Decree, the agreement between the UG, EPA, and DOJ supports Public Works' ongoing efforts to address sewer overflows, prevent basement backups, and safeguard the environment. The Consent Decree also creates sustainable, predictable, and reasonable rate increases for Kansas City Kansans.

In addition to finalizing the Consent Decree, the Water Pollution Control team was hard at work expanding service to residents in western Kansas City, Kansas, through a \$52 million investment in the Wolcott Treatment Plant.

This new plant and its associated Piper Creek interceptor will provide increased sanitary sewer service capacity for residents and businesses in a swiftly growing area. Unlike other

treatment plants, the Wolcott plant will utilize new technology, Granulated Activated Sludge, which reduces the tankage and equipment resources needed to treat wastewater.

The Water Pollution Control Group is also focused on reducing costs and extending the life of assets through proper management and orderly preventative maintenance schedules. Saving ratepayers money matters, and one of the best ways to accomplish that goal is through asset management initiatives that are being improved and advanced every day.

Keep reading to learn more about the Consent Decree, predictable sewer rates, and the Wolcott Treatment plant's improvements.





Testing Water at the Kaw Point Treatment Plant, 2020

Stable Sewer Rates



Since 2013, the Unified Government (UG) has been working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) to develop a 25-year sewer investment plan. The plan supports Public Works' ongoing efforts to address sewer overflows and basement backups, and it was approved in 2020 through a Consent Decree between the UG, EPA, and DOJ.

Unlike consent decrees approved in hundreds of other communities with combined sewer systems, a vital part of the Unified Government's agreement is the flexibility to modify the consent decree to address future cost concerns.

The plan will focus on updating existing sewer infrastructure, meet federal regulations, and look for ways new construction can provide multiple benefits. The plan will also maintain predictable and manageable sewer rates over the next 25 years.

Funding the investment will require rate increases that are projected to be at or below 5 percent each year. For comparison, annual sewer rate increases in the UG over the last 20 years have averaged 6 percent, peaking at 15 percent in 2011 and 2012.

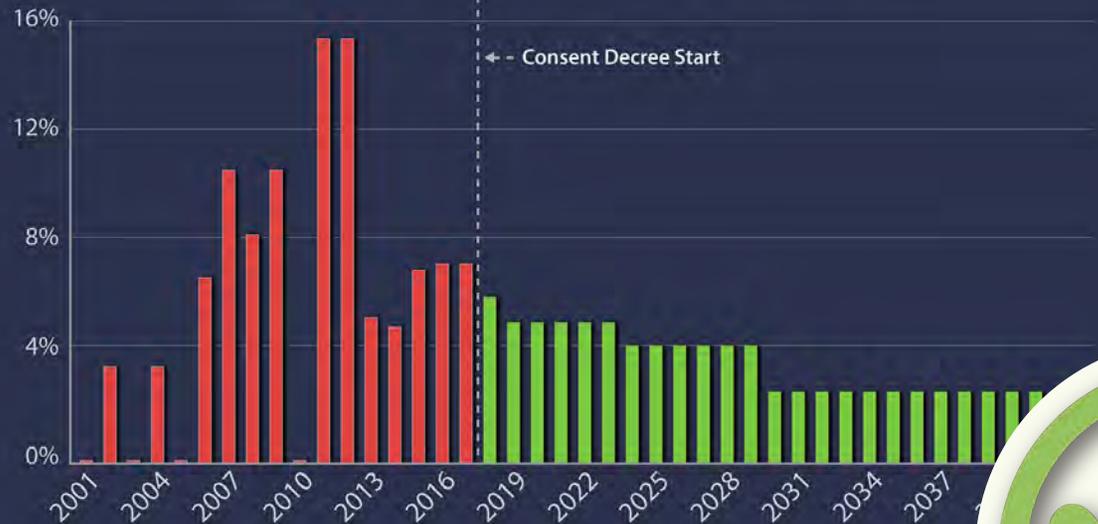
The UG will use this investment to meet our consent decree obligations and create a safe and healthy environment for our community.



UG ANNUAL SEWER RATE INCREASES

HISTORIC +6% AVERAGE
UNPREDICTABLE YEAR-TO-YEAR FLUCTUATIONS

PROJECTED +3.5% AVERAGE
OUTCOMES PREDICTED AND MANAGEABLE



Expanding Service

As western Kansas City, Kansas' Piper area continues to grow, so too does the need for reliable wastewater service. To meet the needs of this growing area, Public Works has invested \$52 million into expanding the Wolcott Treatment Plant. The new plant will ensure regulatory compliance and increase service for residents.



Continuing Public Works' dedication to minimizing costs for ratepayers, the plant will utilize new technology, Granulated Activated Sludge, which reduces the total storage tankage and equipment needed to safely and efficiently process wastewater.



The
Merc
coop

👍 You're doing a great job
every day!

👍 Thank you for all you do.
It's much appreciated.

👍 Thanks for working all day
and night! Much appreciated.

PAUSE-CRAWL-WALK-RUN