

# Memorandum City of Lawrence Public Works

**TO:** David L. Corliss, City Manager  
**FROM:** Chuck Soules, Director of Public Works  
**Date:** August 5, 2013  
**CC:** Diane Stoddard, Cynthia Wagner, Jonathan Douglas, David Cronin, Mark Thiel  
**RE:** Construction of 31<sup>st</sup> Street, from Haskell Avenue to O'Connell Road  
KDOT Project No. 23 U-2117-01 – City Project No. 18-CP7-507(S)

Please include the following information on the August 13, 2013 City Commission Regular Agenda.

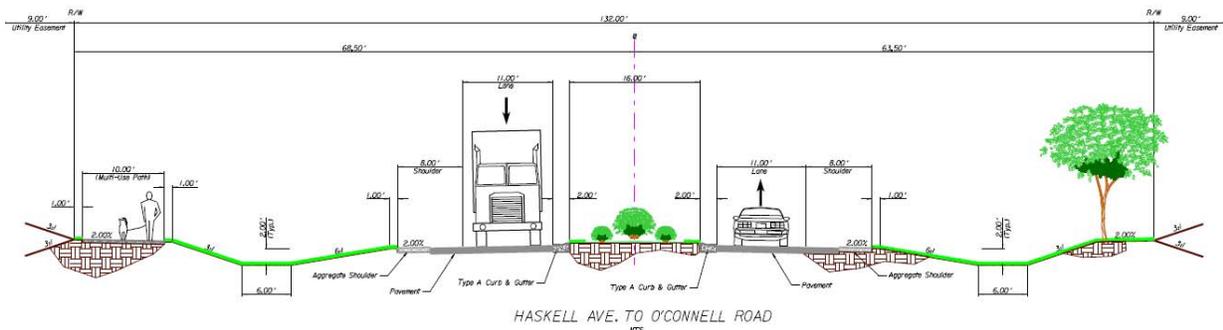
## Project Background

This project has a long history beginning in 2006 when the City applied for a construction project and received a Federal earmark of \$800,000 to begin design and acquire the R/W. A steering Committee was formed in 2008. The Steering Committee was comprised of representatives from the adjacent neighborhoods, wetlands, Bicycle Advisory Committee, Planning/City/County Commissions, businesses, Chamber of Commerce, and staff. The Steering Committee recommendations included:

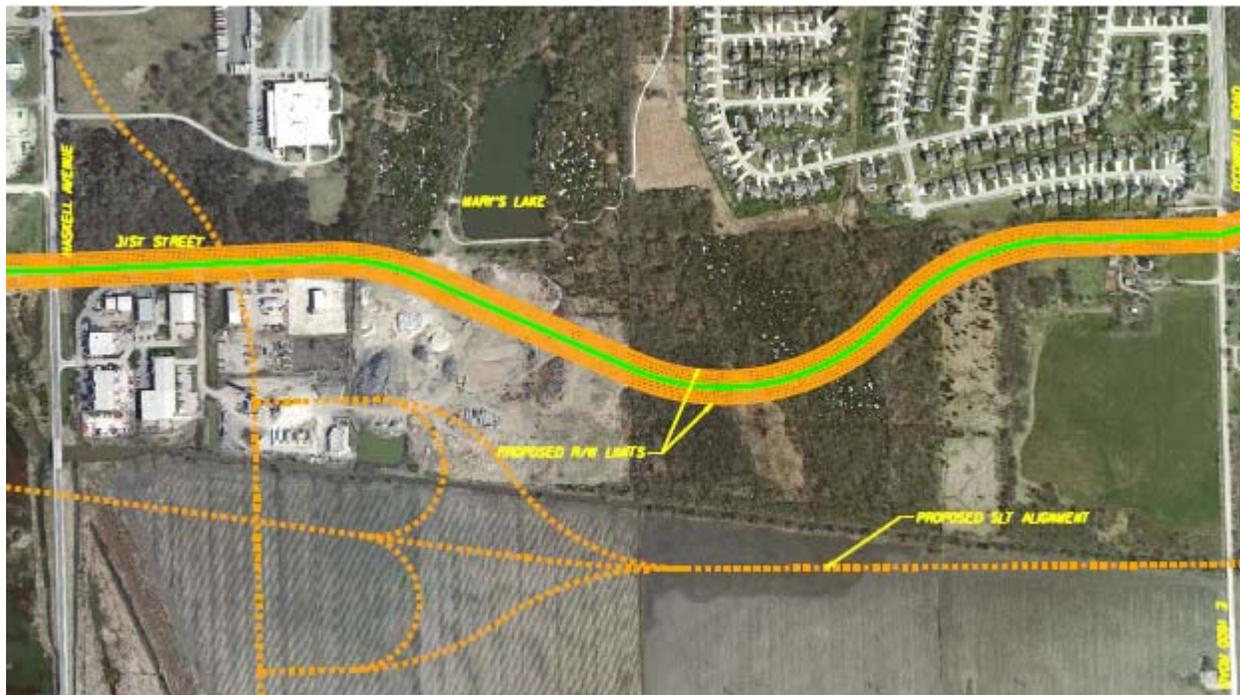
### Steering Committee Recommendations/Findings:

- A curvilinear alignment
- Southern alignment between Haskell and O'Connell following the topography
- Typical sections, including medians and ditch sections (from Haskell Avenue east to the end of the industrial area, a three lane curb and gutter and storm sewer section)
- Right-of-Way needed for future expansion – 150'
- Multi-use path on north side and tying into Prairie Park
- Design speed of 45 mph
- Intersection at Haskell Avenue will need a signal
- Intersection at O'Connell Road should be reviewed for a signal and roundabout
- Speed limit of 45 mph was recommended
- Several meetings were held with the City and County Commissions and open public meetings
- Construction funding was not identified

## TYPICAL SECTION



## Project Alignment



## Project Status

In 2009 KDOT announced the T-Works Transportation Program that included the construction of the SLT.

As part of the SLT project an interchange will be constructed at 31<sup>st</sup> Street & Haskell Avenue. This interchange will also include the construction/reconstruction of the intersection at 31<sup>st</sup> Street & Haskell Avenue and 31<sup>st</sup> Street east of Haskell approximately 1500 feet (approximately 1/3 of the project). Right-of-way for the SLT also acquires approximately 40% to 50% of the right-of-way needed for the 31<sup>st</sup> Street project.

In 2012 City entered into an agreement with KDOT to construct 31<sup>st</sup> Street. The agreement included:

- The Secretary would acquire the right-of-way for the project.
- The Secretary will bid the project.
- The City will pay \$2 million in 2014 and 2015 (estimated construction cost) plus right-of-way acquisition costs.
- After construction and acceptance KDOT will deed over the property acquired for the project.

The City will be responsible for construction inspection.

At the Commission's August 6<sup>th</sup> meeting the City Commission initiated the annexation of the 31<sup>st</sup> Street right-of-way.

## **Wetlands**

The Army Corps of Engineers determined that the 31<sup>st</sup> Street project would affect approximately 11 acres of existing wetlands.

The SLT project acquired additional property due to having to acquire larger tracts and not leaving unusable areas. KDOT has agreed to allow the City to acquire 11 acres of the excess property to use as our mitigation area.

KDOT paid approximately \$6,500 an acre which the City will need to reimburse (approximately \$72,000). The mitigation area will require plantings, monitoring, maintenance, and reporting for 3 years. Baker University (Dr. Roger Boyd) has agreed to do all work to meet the permit requirements. The City and Baker University will need to enter into an agreement for this work which Dr. Boyd has agreed to complete for \$62,000. This agreement will be presented to the Commission for approval.

## **Permit**

The permit must be agreed to by the City, before the Corps will issue it. The permit includes the plan for the area (appendix A attached), construction of wetlands, plantings, maintenance, riparian buffer (appendix D attached), types of plants, and quantities. The plantings include 624 buck brush, 432 gooseberries, 48 elderberries, 780 bush honeysuckles all per acre and an average of 250 trees per acre (mitigation plan attached). Monitoring and reporting for 3 years. The permit also requires a deed restriction that the land cannot be used for other purposes.

## **Project Schedule**

The SLT and 31<sup>st</sup> Street will be bid at the same time (separate projects). The bid date for both projects is September 18, 2013.

## **Action Requested**

Authorize Mayor to sign Department of Army Permit Number NWK-2011-124 for the construction of 31<sup>st</sup> Street, from Haskell to O'Connell, City Project Number 18-CP7-507(S).

Respectfully Submitted,



Charles F. Soules, P.E.  
Director of Public Works

CFS/ch

Attachments: Appendix A and D  
Lawrence Mitigation Plan