



City of Lawrence

The Flame | January 2021

**"We Have
Tomorrow —
Bright Before
Us, Like A
Flame."**

Langston Hughes

Lawrence Transit System celebrates 20th Anniversary

On a snowy day in December, Lawrence Transit System rolled its first buses out onto the streets. The date was December 16, 2000. It's hard to believe it's already been 20 years since that momentous occasion!

Lawrence Transit, otherwise known as "The T," started city bus service when the citizens of Lawrence recognized a need for transit in their community. Beginning with eight fixed routes and paratransit "T Lift" service, transit was off to a great start when it launched in December 2000.

The city's public transit buses have traveled countless miles in the last two decades, carrying people to work, school, medical appointments, grocery stores and many more destinations across Lawrence.

Over the years, Lawrence Transit has expanded and grown as community needs shift, adding new services and reaching new milestones, including the below:

- Bus routes have been added and times have been adjusted to allow for easier transfers from one bus to another. All routes now run on a thirty minute or one hour schedule.
- Bus service was coordinated with KU Transportation Services. This has been a win-win for bus riders who can now ride any bus in Lawrence using the same fare media.
- Night Line provides bus service from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Monday through Saturday. This increased service to 24 hours a day, Monday – Saturday.



- Mobile tools provide riders with real-time bus information and show where the bus is on a route.
- Bus pass sales outlets at all four Dillons stores, Hy-Vee, and The Merc have made it convenient for bus riders to purchase a bus pass while grocery shopping.
- The K-12 Student Semester bus pass program was created to be an easy and affordable way for students to get around town and to school.
- Bike racks are available on all buses, including KU buses, allowing riders to complete trips using a bike and the bus.

- Bus stop and amenity improvements have made it more comfortable and accessible to wait for the bus.

The future looks bright as we look toward the next 20 years of Lawrence Transit. Plans are underway to construct a Multimodal Transfer Facility in 2022, in coordination with redesigning bus routes. More information on those upcoming changes can be found at lawrencetransit.org/transfer-facility. In 2021, at least 21 bus stops will be improved with amenities such as shelters and benches, and in 2022, Lawrence Transit will add five electric buses to the fleet.

For more information about riding the bus, visit lawrencetransit.org.

City Commission elects new Mayor and Vice Mayor

In their meeting on December 1, 2020, the Lawrence City Commission elected a new Mayor and Vice Mayor for the following year. Brad Finkeldei was elected Mayor and Courtney Shipley was elected Vice Mayor. They were sworn in to their new positions that evening.

This meeting also represented the conclusion of Jennifer Ananda's term as Mayor. She will remain on the City Commission, along with Mayor Finkeldei, Vice Mayor Shipley, and Commissioners Lisa Larsen and Stuart Boley, in the coming year (December 2020-December 2021).



Pictured above: Mayor Brad Finkeldei (left) and Vice Mayor Courtney Shipley (right).

Parks and Recreation winter programming update

The City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department (LPRD) will not hold scheduled programs and activities in January 2021. Programming for the remaining winter season, which goes to the end of March 2021, is still to be determined. The move is intended to help stop the potential spread of COVID-19 in the community.

At the time of this newsletter's publication, all LPRD facilities will remain open with limited hours for use of weight/cardio areas; however, LPRD will continue using

Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health guidance for Smart and Safe Parks and Recreation Services. Any changes to facility hours will be published weekly, on Thursdays, to the LPRD web page: lawrenceks.org/lprd.

To help keep you active while staying home during the pandemic, LPRD has published a few at-home workout videos. You can find those videos by going to the City of Lawrence YouTube page and searching "LPRD" in the page's search bar: youtube.com/user/lawrenceksvideo.

Download Lawrence Listens today!

Lawrence Listens is a free online tool that helps Lawrence residents connect with the City for service requests.

Whether it's a pothole you spot while driving home or a parks issue you see while walking the dog, Lawrence Listens is the easiest way for you to report your concern to the City for assistance. And, the best part of the tool is that City employees will communicate back to you in real-time on the app as they address your reported issue.

The best way to understand Lawrence Listens is to download it and begin reporting issues you see in your community. You'll quickly get the hang of how easy it is to use.

Lawrence Listens can be accessed online through lawrenceks.org/listens or by downloading the app onto your Apple or Android devices. For the quickest download option, simply use your phone/tablet to scan one of the QR codes below (apple code for apple devices, android code for android devices) and then follow the prompts to download the app onto your device.

**QR CODE FOR
APPLE USERS**



**QR CODE FOR
ANDROID USERS**



Lawrence Police Department moves to new facility

On Monday, Dec. 21, the Lawrence Police Department began operating out of their new facility at 5100 Overland Dr. (pictured below).



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We create a community where all enjoy life and feel at home.