



City of Lawrence

The Flame | October 2021

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

Langston Hughes

Moving forward with the Multimodal Transfer Facility

*New facility to be located at Bob Billings & Crestline;
additional smaller downtown transfer site still in consideration*

On August 17, the Lawrence City Commission approved the location and design concept for a new multimodal transfer facility for Lawrence Transit. This facility will be constructed on the southeast corner of Bob Billings Parkway and Crestline Drive, and it will serve as the central transfer location for most local bus routes.

Since 2013, the main transfer location for Lawrence Transit has been curbside on the 700 block of Vermont Street, between 7th and 8th streets. This space was meant to be a temporary location until a permanent location was found. Although this has been a convenient downtown location, it cannot provide the essential

amenities or safety features necessary for the needs of Lawrence bus riders.

After a multi-year process, the new location at Bob Billings & Crestline was selected based on the geographically central location, easy access to major streets and our partnership with the University of Kansas. A route redesign study is currently underway to help us design bus routes that will best serve the new multimodal transfer facility.

The new facility has been designed to include ten saw-tooth bus parking bays, eight of which will be for city buses and two for over-the-road or regional commuter buses. There will also be indoor facilities, which will include a customer service area, restrooms and a waiting area for bus riders.

The layout of the facility will make it easy for riders to make transfers, with clearly marked bus bays and a central island for less walking to and from buses. There will be real-time bus arrival signage, comfortable seating areas and overhead canopies to protect against the sun and the elements. The facility will also include bike lockers and bike racks, a ride-hail area for passenger pick-up and drop off, plus a small parking lot and a commuter bus loading area. You can see an image of the approved concept on our website: lawrencetransit.org/transfer-facility

In addition to the new multimodal transfer facility, a smaller, downtown transfer site is still being considered since several bus routes will continue to travel downtown and convenient transfers will need to be made. A public process, which will include site selection and desired features for this location will be a top priority for Lawrence Transit this year.

Wendel Companies will complete the final design and construction administration services for the facility at Bob Billings and Crestline and the scope of work for the downtown transfer site. Construction on the new facility is slated to begin next year with an August 2022 completion date.

For more information on the Lawrence Transit multimodal transfer facility project, please visit our website at: lawrencetransit.org/transfer-facility.



The current main transfer station for Lawrence Transit is curbside in the 700 block of Vermont Street.

Neighbors helping neighbors: the Safe Winter Walkways program

The City of Lawrence and the Senior Resource Center for Douglas County need your help! The Safe Winter Walkways program, a collaboration between the two organizations, is kicking off for the coming winter, and volunteers are needed to help elderly and disabled individuals clear public sidewalks following snow events.

During winter months, Lawrence residents need safe access to public sidewalks to accomplish day-to-day tasks, like walking to stores or going to work.

Safe Winter Walkways is a resource to help ensure public safety by assisting community members who are physically unable to clear their sidewalks following snow events.

While October may seem early to start thinking about snowy weather, it's important to get participants and volunteers matched before winter weather really begins.

Volunteer Shovelers

Able-bodied Lawrence residents with a passion for helping others are needed to

volunteer. Volunteers are matched with residents needing assistance, and the program makes every effort to match volunteers with residents in their neighborhoods.

Individual volunteers are welcome, but the program also encourages volunteer groups, civic organizations and youth groups to consider volunteering as a team.

All volunteers are asked to commit to the entire snow season and shovel after each snow fall. Volunteers are not required to provide snow removal for private driveways, sidewalks or walkways, but they may choose to also clear these areas.

Volunteer shovelers can sign up by registering at: lawrenceks.org/safe_winter_walkways.

Resident Participants

Elderly and disabled individuals who are responsible for the care of public sidewalks, but are physically unable to keep them clear following snow events, are encouraged to participate in the program. This program is for public sidewalks only, and priority is given to homes with public sidewalks.

Interested participants can visit the City website for more information or to sign up: lawrenceks.org/safe_winter_walkways.

For any questions on the Safe Winter Walkways program, please contact Larry Woydziak with the Senior Resource Center for Douglas County (Call 785-727-7875 or email lwoydzia@YourSRC.org).



Donate to the Utility Assistance Program

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated a problem with outstanding utility payments for many of our community members as it left some unable to keep up with bills due to lost employment, an inability to work, or other circumstances. To assist these households, the City halted utility shut-offs during the pandemic.

While the City does not currently have a date set, once service disconnections resume, customers who have a delinquent balance for more than 22 days will be subject to utility shut offs. The City created the Utility Assistance Program to be a resource to these households who could use extra help getting back on their feet as we continue fighting COVID-19.

There's no set amount to donate, you can give as much or as little as you're able. For example, if half of all City utility customers donated \$8 a month for a year, those donations would more than cover the current outstanding balance and help set up the Utility Assistance Program to continue into the future.

To donate, fill out the online form at lawrenceks.org/utility-billing/donate. We appreciate any and all support!

Construction continues for Lawrence Loop

Projects to construct two critical portions of the Lawrence Loop began in mid-August. The projects received 80% funding through a Federal Transportation Alternatives grant and will help continue the work toward completing the Lawrence Loop.

Project areas include 29th Street from the Haskell Rail Trail to Haskell Lane, and from 11th Street to 9th Street along Delaware Street and northeast of Hobbs Park.

The projects will primarily consist of 10-foot-wide shared-use paths, with some eight-foot-wide paths along Delaware Street. Additionally, raised crossings will be installed across Haskell Lane on 29th Street and across 10th Street, the Allen Press Truck Entrance and 9th Street on Delaware Street. Raised crossings increase visibility for approaching drivers and slow traffic.

With the completion of these two portions, the Lawrence Loop will include

a total of 18.33 miles of completed pathway, with another 0.64 miles planned for construction within the next year.

The Lawrence Loop is a mostly 10-foot-wide paved shared-use path that began more than 20 years ago. The goal is to accommodate residents and visitors of all ages and abilities and serve people who are walking, biking, or using assistive devices. Hundreds of residents and visitors walk and wheel on the Lawrence Loop every day.

