

## **MPO Staff Response to 19<sup>th</sup> Street Neighborhoods Coalition submitted by Michael Almon on February 22, 2017**

Your comments with the MPO Staff response in red are listed below.

- 1) Amend the Functional Classification Map (FCM) to return 19th St. to Local classification, Harper to VPB

System planning as part of the Transportation 2040 for 19<sup>th</sup> Street justifies 19<sup>th</sup> Street as a collector status on the Functional Classification map.

The connection between O'Connell Rd and E 19th St is necessary to develop the Lawrence Venture Park, which is immediately to the east of this intersection. A second exit from Lawrence Venture Park enhances connectivity for employees, community and public safety access.

The T2040 Major Thoroughfares map governs the development standards for roadways in the Development code. That map can be found online at:

<https://assets.lawrenceks.org/assets/mpo/T2040/Thoroughfares.pdf>

On the T2040 Major Thoroughfares Map:

19th St. from Iowa to O'Connell is classified as a Minor Arterial

MPO staff does not recommend on down classifying 19<sup>th</sup> St. from Harper to Venture Park.

- 2) Amend the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) to decouple 19th St. from O'Connell Rd.
- 3) Deprogram MPO Project 229 from the TIP and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

This project is a regional significant project that the City of Lawrence has asked us to program in the TIP based on inclusion in the City of Lawrence CIP. The inclusion of project 229 is consistent with the region's long range transportation plan, Transportation 2040.

MPO staff does not recommend any changes to the TIP Project 229.

From the City of Lawrence- Project Sponsor:

On the Functional Classification Map 19th street has been identified as a Major Collector as it collects the traffic from many neighborhoods and is one of only a few that connect from the east side of town to Iowa. (19th Street has been identified as a Minor Arterial on the major thoroughfares map which governs the City of Lawrence's development of the roadway.) The street east of Harper needs maintenance, sidewalks and bike lanes. There are also drainage improvements that need to be completed.

The City has always planned to connect to the Venture Park / O'Connell road since Venture Park was platted. Connection will provide access to employees of the business park.

We have not designed this project yet but connectivity is important. This project is in the TIP, at this time there is no state/ federal funding expected. This is a locally funded project and the Commission will make the final decision, it is in the City CIP.

- 4) Amend the TIP to advise that Ordinance 8660 be rescinded, revoking O'Connell Rd. as "Main Trafficway"

Ordinance 8660 is a City of Lawrence Ordinance; the Lawrence Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization does not have any legal authority to rescind an action by the City of Lawrence and the Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) do not advise on local policy. MPO staff does not recommend any changes to the TIP.

- 5) Amend the FCM to reclassify 19th St., Haskell Ave. to Naismith Dr., as Major Collector
- 6) Amend the FCM to reclassify Naismith Dr., 19th St. to 23rd St., as Minor Arterial

Based on how the network functions and the standards from the Federal Highway Administration for Functional Classification, the staff recommends the MPO Policy Board recommends keeping the currently approved classifications for these roadway segments.

The T2040 Major Thoroughfares map governs the development standards for roadways in the Development code. That map can be found online at:

<https://assets.lawrenceks.org/assets/mpo/T2040/Thoroughfares.pdf>

On the T2040 Major Thoroughfares Map:

19th St., Haskell Ave. to Naismith Dr. is classified as a Minor Arterial

Naismith Dr., 19th St. to 23rd St. is classified as a Collector

Your letter stated when you requested MPO Project 229 be removed from the TIP on July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016, MPO Staff recommended against the request "based on 'consultation with local project sponsor'. They failed to reveal that the 'local sponsor' was also City staff, from Public works, so their capricious action was circular – City staff justifying other City staff opinion."

There is a key distinction that needs to be made. While yes, MPO staff is technically employed by the City of Lawrence, the staff serves a regional governing board and the entire MPO area, which includes Lawrence, Eudora, Baldwin City, Lecompton, and Douglas County. Therefore the MPO staff work with local government staff who serve their local governing commission. The MPO staff does regional planning, not municipality specific project selection or design. As such, when a municipality specific issue arises, it is not within the MPO staff's jurisdiction to make the local decisions. Therefore, the comment was discussed with the local sponsor, who in this case was City of Lawrence employees, but they were not lead to any sort of conclusion from MPO staff.



## 19th Street Neighborhoods Coalition



Bryan Culver, Chair  
Lawrence-Douglas County MPO Policy Board  
P.O. Box 708  
Lawrence, KS 66044

22 February 2017

re: DRAFT 2017 MPO-KDOT-FHWA Roadway Functional Classification Map - 23Feb17

Mr. Culver:

As you may recall from the 5 July 2016 MPO Policy Board meeting, the Brook Creek Neighborhood submitted this letter - [Brook Creek Neighborhood Comments re 19th St TIP-A5 1July16.pdf](#) as public comment. In it, we requested that “MPO Project #229: 19th Street Reconstruction, Harper St. to O’Connell Rd.” not be rescheduled to 2018, but rather be entirely removed from the TIP.

We noted in our letter that “19th St. east of Harper serves only a church, the animal shelter, two auto salvage businesses, and two modular home parks. This segment of 19th Street is functionally a residential street – not even a minor collector. There is no through traffic because E. 19th St. dead ends at Venture Business Park (VBP). BCNA wants to keep it that way”.

Brook Creek Neighborhood has opposed this project since 2011 because its connection to O’Connell Rd. would dump excess traffic into our neighborhood. Other public comment for the 5 July 2016 meeting came from representatives in Barker Neighborhood and University Place Neighborhood, regarding their concerns for traffic congestion on other sections of 19th St..

On 5 July 2016, MPO staff recommended against our request, because “T2040 identifies that section of 19th Street as a Major Collector on the 2016 MPO-KDOT-FHWA Roadway Functional Classification Map”. We understood that the map would first need to be amended before the project could be reconsidered. As a result, you passed TIP Amendment 5 without deleting Project #229.

On this month’s MPO agenda is “Action Item 7: Review and Approve the Functional Classification Map Revision (attached)”. In spite of our request 7 ½ months ago, the Draft 2017 Functional Classification Map still has 19th St. from Harper to VBP classified as a Major Collector.

Since July 2016, the five neighborhoods along 19th St. from the east City limits to Iowa St. have formed a coalition in opposition to 19th St. becoming a through corridor, in a combination of Major Collector and Minor Arterial. Representatives from three of those neighborhoods have adopted a common position, and we are in contact with the other two, who meet less frequently. We request that you:

- 1) Amend the Functional Classification Map (FCM) to return 19th St. to Local classification, Harper to VPB
- 2) Amend the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) to decouple 19th St. from O’Connell Rd.
- 3) Deprogram MPO Project 229 from the TIP and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
- 4) Amend the TIP to advise that Ordinance 8660 be rescinded, revoking O’Connell Rd. as “Main Trafficway”
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- 6) Amend the FCM to reclassify Naismith Dr., 19th St. to 23rd St., as Minor Arterial



Sincerely,  
Michael Almon

A map of downtown Kansas City, Missouri, showing the intersection of W 21st St and W 23rd St. The map highlights the area around the intersection, including the intersection of W 21st St and W 23rd St, and the intersection of W 21st St and W 23rd St. The map also shows the intersection of W 21st St and W 23rd St, and the intersection of W 21st St and W 23rd St. The map is color-coded with green for parks and yellow for commercial areas. The map shows the intersection of W 21st St and W 23rd St, and the intersection of W 21st St and W 23rd St. The map also shows the intersection of W 21st St and W 23rd St, and the intersection of W 21st St and W 23rd St.