

From: [Almon, Michael](#)
To: [Culver, Bryan](#)
Cc: [Jessica Mortinger](#); [Fahrenbruch, Melissa](#)
Subject: Brook Creek Neighborhood opposition to E 19th/O'Connell Rd connection
Date: Friday, July 01, 2016 10:11:59 AM
Attachments: [19th St Harper-VBP MPO #229 BCNA oppostion in TIP 1July2016.pdf](#)
[O'Connell Rd made a Main Trafficway Ord8660 15Aug11.pdf](#)
[Venture Business Park Plat Map 5Nov13.pdf](#)
[Brook Creek Neighborhood vote on O'Connell Rd. link to 19th St 2Sept15.pdf](#)

Hello Chairman Culver:

Please find attached a letter from the Brook Creek Neighborhood Association (BCNA) stating our opposition to MPO Project #229 in the TIP. BCNA has voiced opposition at several public meetings since 2011, and recently submitted formal opposition in the Lawrence Capital Improvement Plan. In conjunction to the City plan to connect O'Connell Rd. to East 19th St., BCNA is concerned that 19th St. seems slated to become a major cross town corridor.

We likewise feel that the Lawrence Multi-Modal Center should be located on a major arterial rather than just off 19th St. and Naismith Drive. Before any of these projects are approved at any regulatory level, or given any consideration for funding, we request that the MPO initiate a traffic impact study for the full length of 19th St.

Please review our attached letter (and attachments) that explains that the 19th St. reconstruction and connection to O'Connell Rd. is not only detrimental to our neighborhood, but also is not justified by the traffic objectives stated by the City.

thank you,
Michael Almon, Secretary
Brook Creek Neighborhood Association



Brook Creek Neighborhood Association

Melissa Fahrenbruch, President
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e-mail: brookcreekna@gmail.com; meljofah@gmail.com

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

1 July 2016

re: MPO Project #229: 19th Street Reconstruction, Harper St. to O'Connell Rd.

Mr. Culver:

The Brook Creek Neighborhood Association respectfully urges the Metropolitan Planning Organization to abandon draft plans for a curb-and-gutter concrete upgrade of E. 19th St. from Harper St. to the Venture Business Park. This proposed project adjoins our neighborhood and would have a detrimental traffic impact for us. We are particularly opposed to any connection of East 19th St. to O'Connell Rd.

At a regular meeting of the Brook Creek Neighborhood Association (BCNA) on 2 September 2015, a pre-announced discussion was held and a vote taken. Eleven members were in attendance including all four Officers. We voted unanimously for the four points in the following position statement:

1. O'Connell Rd. shall not be connected to East 19th Street.
2. Ordinance 8660 shall be amended to declassify O'Connell Rd. from designation as a "Main Trafficway" extending north of 23rd St. to an intersection with 19th St.
3. The Venture Business Park plat shall be amended to vacate the right of way leg off O'Connell Rd. extending 251 feet west to the 19th St. right of way.
4. The O'Connell Rd. pavement shall be removed from where it meets the 19th St. right of way eastward to the southern end of the curve on O'Connell Rd.

You have this item before you in the TIP Amendment #5, specifically to reprogram all funding and activity to FY 2018. This is because BCNA formally opposed it in the Lawrence 2017 CIP Budget process, and the City Commission defunded the project for 2017, and delayed it to 2018. But BCNA wants the project canceled, not just delayed. Here are our reasons why.

E. 19th St. from Harper St. to Venture Business Park is now a 2-lane, crown-and-ditch, macadam street with storm water drainage by means of the side ditches draining into intermittent streams. Like a number of other streets in Brook Creek Neighborhood, we want it to stay that way. At numerous occasions over the past several decades, we have made it clear to both Public Works and Parks & Recreation that such open ditches carry upwards to seven times the volume of water than would a culvert placed in the ditch and covered over. BCNA wants to retain all our crown-and-ditch streets.

E. 19th St. from Harper St. to Venture Business Park had been inappropriately classified in 2013 by Public Works as a Major Collector (not only that, they presumptuously classified it as such all the way east to Franklin Rd., even though this segment and the Franklin Rd. segment were neither platted nor built). While traffic volumes on 19th St. west of Harper St. may justify such a classification, the road 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. BCNA wants to keep it that way.

Public Works has major plans to increase the traffic capacity of 19th St. west of Massachusetts St., including improved traffic lanes, center turn lanes, and intersection channelization. These plans are to accommodate Lawrence High School traffic, increased Louisiana St. traffic, K.U. game day traffic, plans for a transit hub at Naismith Dr., the new K.U. Central District at Ousdahl Rd., and the K.U. Master Plan expansion west of 19th and Iowa. The simultaneous plans for W. 19th St. and the linking of E. 19th St. with O'Connell Rd. amount to a defacto corridor. BCNA does not want the linkup of E. 19th St. with O'Connell Rd.; we question the rationale for a transit hub not adjacent to a major arterial; and we do not want 19th St. to become that arterial.

Public works claims the E. 19th St./O'Connell Rd. connection is needed to to serve the Venture Business Park. BCNA disputes that claim, and finds it secondary to other major traffic generators. What Public Works isn't revealing is that if O'Connell Rd. is connected to E. 19th St., there will be several traffic generators dumping far more traffic onto E. 19th St. than will Venture Business Park. The south end of O'Connell Rd. now connects with E. 31st St. extended, a convenient fact already discovered by South Iowa shoppers; and the E. 19th St./O'Connell Rd. link will complete that circuit. With the new K-10 configuration, commuters can no longer exit on to Noria Rd. to skirt around congestion on 23rd St.; so the next available choice will be O'Connell Rd. if it is connected to 19th St. Even now, K.U. game day crowds take 19th St. via Haskell Ave., but will quickly learn how to cut over O'Connell Rd. And on top of that is the internal traffic from Venture Business Park.

Is this potential traffic generation on E. 19th St. hyperbole? No. On 15 August 2011, by Ordinance 8660, the City Commission designated O'Connell Rd. from 23rd St. north to 19th St. as a "Main Trafficway", "the primary function of which is the movement of through traffic between areas of concentrated activity within the city" (definition in KSA12-685). Judging by that fact, not only is increased traffic anticipated but it is intended. BCNA does not want the consequences of such plans.

Finally, is the E. 19th St./O'Connell Rd. link needed to serve the Venture Business Park? No. Unlike other industrial areas such as the N. Iowa/Lakeview industries, the Lyon St./N. 9th St. industries, the N.W. Farmer's Turnpike industries, the 19th St./Delaware St. industries, and the S. Haskell Ave industries, the Venture Business Park enjoys direct access to a divided highway and Principal Arterial (along with its partner the East Hills Business Park). These industries access K-10 at O'Connell Rd. (E. 1600 Rd.), at East Hills Dr. (E. 1700 Rd.), and at E. 1900 Rd. via Noria Rd. If a fourth access point is needed as Public Works claims, it already exists, though not acknowledged by Public Works. Franklin Rd. right of way has been platted to connect Venture Park Dr. directly to K-10 at Franklin Rd. (E. 1650 Rd.), halfway between O'Connell Rd. and East Hills Dr.

We request the Metropolitan Planning Organization take the following actions:

1. Remove permanently from the TIP the 19th Street reconstruction, O'Connell to Harper, MPO#229.
2. Add to the TIP constructing Franklin Rd. on platted right of way between Venture Park Dr. and 23rd St.
3. Recommend amending ordinance 8660 to declassify O'Connell Rd. from being a "Main Trafficway" extending north of 23rd St. to an intersection with 19th St.
4. Recommend vacating the right of way leg off the north end of O'Connell Rd. extending 251 feet west to the 19th St. right of way.
5. Reclassify 19th St. from Harper to Venture Business Park as a local street.
6. Do not classify any section of 19th St. anywhere over its full length as a Main Trafficway.

Sincerely,



Melissa Fahrenbruch, President

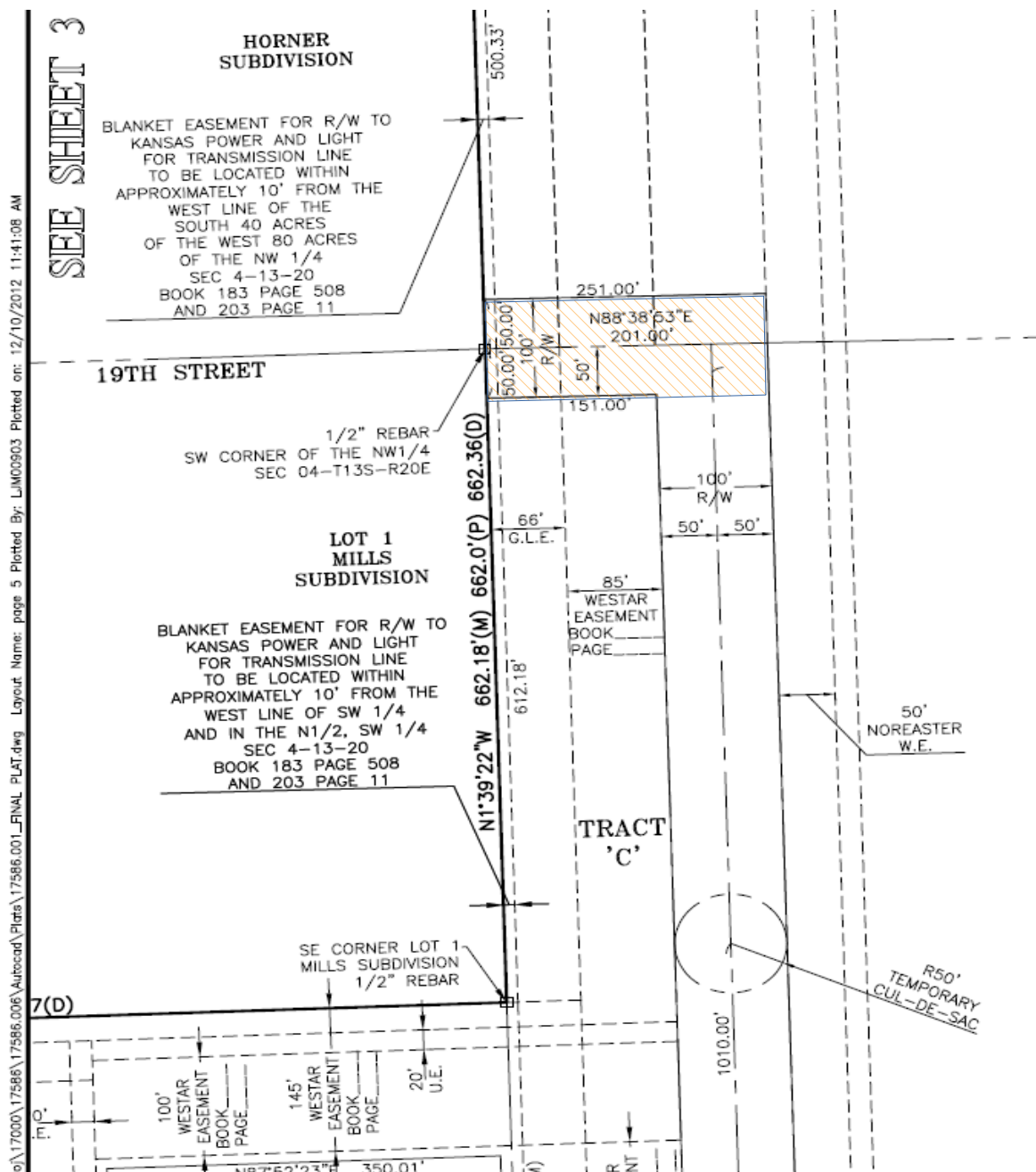
attachments: Ordinance #8660; plat map of Venture Business Park; vote by BCNA on 2 Sept 2015

Brook Creek Neighborhood vote on O'Connell Rd. link to 19th St.

2 September 2015

The Brook Creek Neighborhood Association has adopted the following position:

1. O'Connell Rd. shall not be connected to East 19th Street
2. Ordinance 8660 shall be amended to declassify O'Connell Rd. from a "Main Trafficway" extending north of 23rd St. to an intersection with 19th St.
3. The Venture Business Park plat shall be amended to remove the right of way leg off O'Connell Rd. extending 251 feet west to the 19th St. right of way
4. The O'Connell Rd. pavement shall be removed from where it meets the 19th St. right of way eastward to the southern end of the curve on O'Connell Rd.



ORDINANCE NO. 8660

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING CERTAIN STREETS AS MAIN TRAFFICWAYS.

WHEREAS, K.S.A. 12-685 *et seq.* (the "Act"), authorizes the governing body of the City of Lawrence, Kansas (the "City"), to designate and establish any existing or proposed street as a main trafficway, the primary function of which is or shall be the movement of through traffic between areas of concentrated activity within the City or between such areas within the City and traffic facilities outside the City performing the function of a major trafficway; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF LAWRENCE, KANSAS:

Section 1. The following streets are hereby designated and established, pursuant to the Act, as main trafficways:

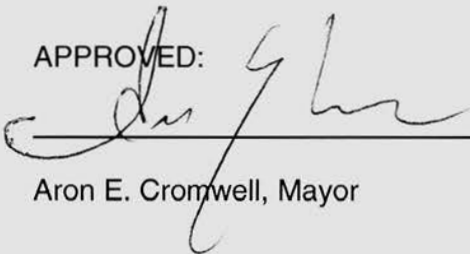
Delaware Street, from 8th Street to **22nd Terrace**

A street, to be named, located north of the northern terminus of O'Connell Road at 23rd Street, north to an intersection with 19th Street


Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval by the governing body of the City and its publication in the official City newspaper.

PASSED by the Governing Body of the City of Lawrence, Kansas, on August 23rd, 2011 and **SIGNED** by the Mayor.

APPROVED:


Aron E. Cromwell, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jonathan M. Douglas, City Clerk

BARTLETT & WEST
SERVICE. THE BARTLETT & WEST WAY.

