

Longview Road Improvement Project

Project Description:

Longview Road is located in the southern part of Kansas City, Mo. This 1,700-foot-long segment of road is the last to be improved between Grandview Road and Blue Ridge Boulevard. The road is currently two lanes wide. The improvements include: widening to three 11-foot-wide lanes; two four-foot-wide “share-the-road” bike lanes; new concrete curb and gutter; installation of an underground drainage system; concrete sidewalks and four rain gardens, which are an integral part of the drainage system. The neighborhood itself is aging; however, there is commercial development at both ends of the project, which enhances the need for pedestrian safety. The addition of sidewalks and bicycle lanes on an arterial road should increase the chances of residents walking or biking to nearby stores and restaurants. The area is also home to many mature trees, which residents would like to preserve as much as possible.

This project provides a perfect opportunity to apply the triple-bottom-line approach to sustainability. The rain gardens, improved drainage system and an innovative trash rack all contribute to an improved environment. The bicycle lanes and sidewalks contribute to the social welfare of the community by offering opportunities to safely walk and ride for enjoyment, exercise and as alternative means of transportation. The overall improvements add an economic boost because current residents recognize the potential impact the project has to the value of their homes. The project allows for a relatively easy detour, so the road will be completely closed during construction to provide for the most efficient working conditions. Because it is a well-used commuter route, every effort will be made to get it done quickly.

What makes this a Success Story?

The Success Stories selection committee chose this project as an innovative example of a transportation project that addresses social, economic and environmental goals through infrastructure design, the use of bicycle lanes and sidewalks for pedestrian use, incorporation of rain gardens, and enhancing the connection between two nearby retail centers.



Community meetings gave neighbors an opportunity to learn more about the project and offer suggestions.



One of the four houses purchased so rain gardens could be built into the plan.

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