



## Healthy Built Environment Work Group

April 18, 2020

Jennifer Ananda, Mayor  
Lawrence City Hall  
6 East 6th St.  
Lawrence KS 66044

**RE: Regular agenda item #2 (construction contract for 21<sup>st</sup> St. project)**

Dear Mayor Ananda and members of the Lawrence City Commission:

The LiveWell Douglas County Healthy Built Environment Work Group writes to ask you follow the recommendation from city staff presented to the City Commission on April 14 and waive the requirement to rebid Bid No. B2012, award Bid No. B2012 to Phoenix Concrete LLC, and authorize the City Manager to execute the construction contract in the amount of \$397,216.98 for the 21st St. project (CIP# CI09 and MS-20-8000).

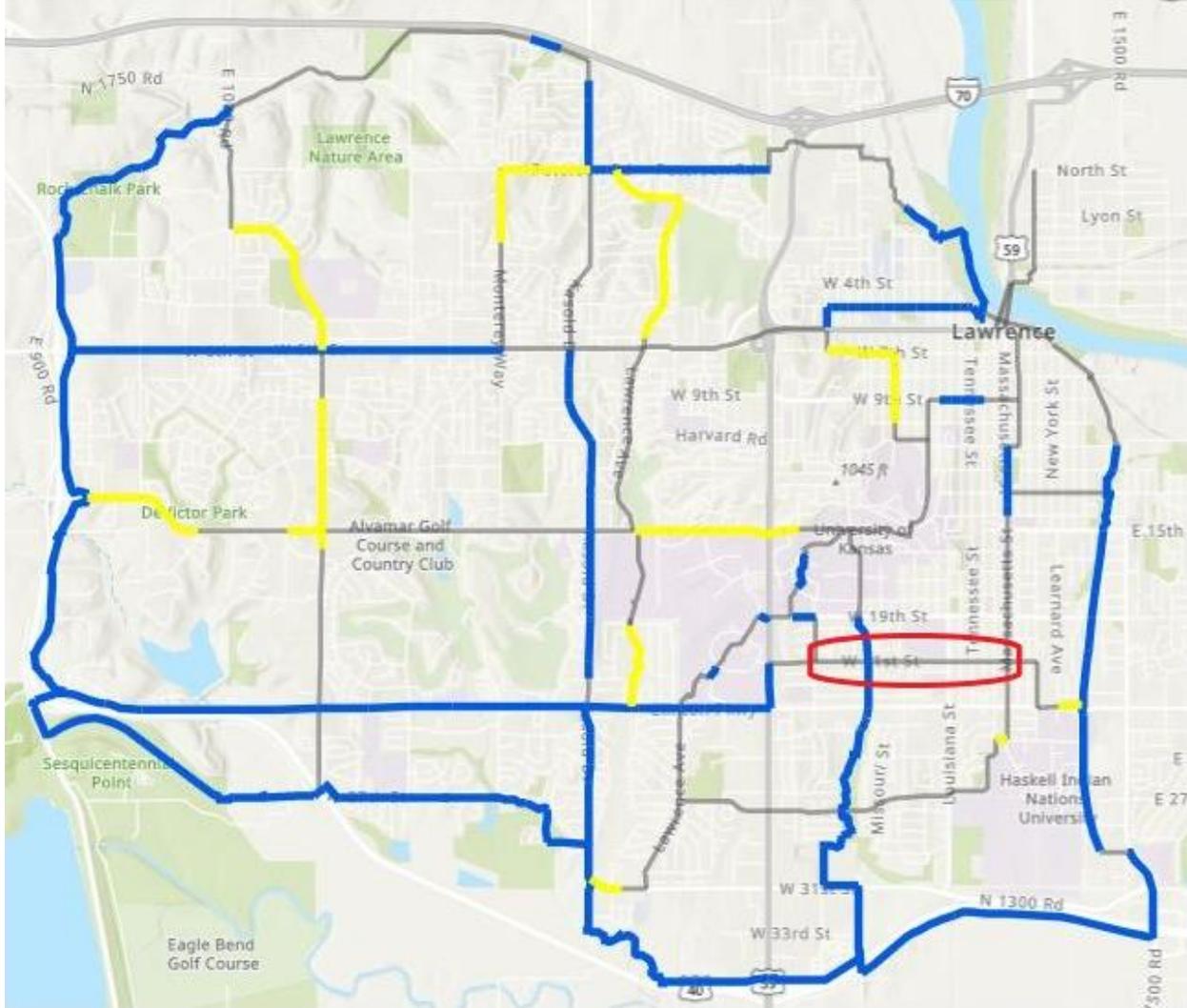
Both Option 1 and 2 presented in staff's April 21 Agenda item report are acceptable options. However, we strongly believe, given the presence of sufficient Sidewalk/Bike/Pedestrian Improvement funds (MS-20-8000) in the current 2020 budget to fund this project, the "complete" project presented last week is highly preferable. On July 2, 2019, the City Commission deferred action on a similar project on 13<sup>th</sup> Street and approved moving forward with the 21<sup>st</sup> St. project. The rationale at the time was to build the best possible "calm street" (the unfortunate term used was "bike boulevard" but we believe this is a misnomer for a residential street that is safer for ALL users) in order for the city to evaluate the effectiveness of the design once it was completed and being used.

We recognize there is some opposition to the project from those who want to see more money used to make street repairs and repair sidewalks. While those are important goals, the Bike/Ped project monies are slated specifically for stand-alone projects that improve the pedestrian and bike networks in our community and cannot be used for general street and sidewalk maintenance/repair. Furthermore, while we recognize maintenance needs for streets and sidewalks, Lawrence does have a connected roadway system comprised of thousands of linear miles of roads. In contrast, less than half of the bike network envisioned in the Lawrence Bikes Plan (approved by the Lawrence City Commission on October 15, 2019 via Resolution No 7299) is completed (see attachment). The 21st Street project is a vital piece of the connected bikeway network envisioned in this approved plan, and the LiveWell Healthy Built Environment Work Group fully supports its construction.

Sincerely,

Members of the Healthy Built Environment Work Group  
LiveWell Douglas County

## Attachment 1: Lawrence Bikeway Plan



The blue lines represent the already-constructed segments of the “priority” bikeway network that is part of the approved Transportation Plan and Lawrence/Douglas County Comprehensive Plan. The yellow lines represent the “secondary” bike network in the Transportation Plan. The gray lines represent the segments of the bike network that remain to be constructed (note the discontinuities in the currently-completed network).

The red oval indicates the area that would be improved through the 21<sup>st</sup> Street Project. It is an incredibly important segment in the network, especially in improving east/west connectivity for people who want to travel around town on bikes.

Source: City of Lawrence website

<https://lawrenceks.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bb7a3c18d7c44ec8ad2b1126f66d7785>