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## **Comprehensive Plan Implementation Report for 2021-2022 Engineering Department**

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This report summarizes work from June 30, 2021 through July 1, 2022 by the Engineering Department as it relates to the Comprehensive Plan Implementation. The report is broken into the following types of projects which include: Major Street Work, Drainage Improvements, Street Overlays / Reconstruction projects and Traffic Signal Improvement projects. The report provides updates for projects that have been completed, ongoing projects and projects that are planned. The report also identifies the top 10 projects that the Engineering Department believes are the most important and beneficial to our community and the top wins / top wants for the department.

## Major Street Work

There are seven (7) major street projects described in more detail as follows:

Zero Street Widening and Relocation project includes the widening and realignment of Zero Street (Hwy. 255) between Massard Creek and Hwy. 22. The project is a collaboration between the Cities of Fort Smith and Barling, Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority, and the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ArDOT). The widening and realignment of this section of Zero Street will create a much needed continuous five lane roadway extending from I-540 to the Hwy. 22/59 intersection. This project reflects FLU 1.4, TI 4.1, TI 4.2, ED 6.1 and HN 1.6. The utility relocation work began in summer 2020 and is estimated to be completed in fall of 2022. The roadway construction will follow.

Geren Road Reconstruction project includes the reconstruction and widening of Geren Road between Hwy. 45 and South 58<sup>th</sup> Street. The street is being widened to a three lane major collector street section. This project reflects FLU 1.4, TI 4.2, and HN 1.6. The construction began in spring 2021 and is estimated to be completed in fall of 2022.

Highway 45 Widening project includes the widening of Highway 45 between Highway 71 and Highway 255 (Zero Street). The project also includes the installation of a traffic signals at the intersections of Highway 45 with Planters Road and Geren Road. The project is a collaboration between the City of Fort Smith, Sebastian County and ArDOT. Construction is estimated to begin in 2025 pending relocation of the utilities. The widening of this section of Highway 45 will create a much needed continuous five lane roadway extending from I-540 to Hwy. 71. This project reflects FLU 1.4, TI 4.1, TI 4.2, ED 6.1 and HN 1.6.

Kelley Highway Extension to Riverfront Drive project includes the reconstruction and widening of Kelley Highway to a three lane section from Midland Boulevard to Riverfront Drive. This extension of Kelley Highway will provide a direct route between I-540 and the riverfront area. This project reflects FLU 1.4, TI 1.1, TI 4.1, TI 4.2, ED 6.1 and NCR 2.6. Right of Way acquisition is scheduled to begin in 2023 with construction beginning in 2025. This project was put on hold in 2022 due to staffing shortages of City Project Engineer positions.

The Towson Avenue project is a partnering project with ArDOT which includes the rehabilitation of the approximately four mile section of Towson Avenue (Hwy. 71B) between Garrison Avenue (Hwy. 64) and Zero Street (Hwy. 255). The project will include upgrading of the drainage system to current standards, replacement of the curb/guttering and driveway approaches, installation of sidewalks and pavement improvements to the street surface. The city's share will be 16% of the project costs, up to a maximum amount of \$2.0 million. Upon completion of the work, this section of Hwy. 71B (Towson Avenue) will be removed from ArDOT's highway system and will become a city street. This project reflects FLU 1.4, TI 4.1, TI 4.2, ED 6.1, HN 1.6 and NCR 2.6. The project will begin construction in 2025, pending relocation of utilities.

The Leigh Avenue Extension project will extend Leigh Avenue across the "horseshoe" from Cliff Drive towards Southside High School. The property owner has agreed to petition the Board of Directors for the abandonment of the right of way for the approximately 3,300 foot long

“horseshoe” section of Leigh Avenue, which will then become a private street. The property owner has also agreed to donate the right of way for the new street extension and allow for disposal of the excess shale on their property. This project reflects FLU 1.4, TI 4.1, TI 4.2, and HN 1.6. Construction is estimated to begin in 2023.

The Airport Drive Realignment project includes the realignment of Airport Boulevard east of Leigh Avenue extending to the entrance to the Arkansas Air Guard. The project will also remove the east side connection of Leigh Avenue with Phoenix Avenue. A cul-de-sac will then be constructed on the north end of this section of Leigh Avenue which will allow access to the Arkansas Air Guard and the airport property. This project reflects FLU 1.4, TI 4.1, and TI 4.2. Construction is estimated to begin in 2023.

All major street projects listed above reflect either FLU 1.4, TI 1.1, TI 4.1, TI 4.2, ED 6.1, HN 1.6 or NCR 2.6.

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| FLU 1.4 | Ensure adequate, well-maintained infrastructure, public safety, and public facilities for all development and prevent development ahead of infrastructure and service provision                      |
| TI 1.1  | Promote better connections between downtown, the riverfront, historic sites, and the Belle Grove Historic District, particularly from I-40 to 540.   |
| TI 4.1  | Continue to ensure that customers within Fort Smith have access to reliable water, sewer, drainage, solid waste services by reducing or eliminating deficiencies and gaps in infrastructure systems. |
| TI 4.2  | Ensure that utility and infrastructure systems can meet the city’s long-term needs.  |
| ED 6.1  | Ensure that economic development objectives are included in the evaluation of all future City infrastructure projects, including parks and recreation facilities.                                    |
| HN 1.6  | Provide convenient, safe connections between neighborhoods and important destinations, such as downtown, employment centers, schools, parks, shopping areas, and neighborhood services.              |
| NCR 2.6 | Reduce stormwater runoff and flooding.   |

## **Drainage Improvements**

There are thirteen (13) drainage improvements projects. These projects reflect FLU 1.4, TI 4.1, TI 4.2 and NCR 2.6.

2019 Drainage Improvements, Phase B. The project consists of various improvements at two locations. The first location includes the construction of additional storm drainage inlets and culverts along South 65<sup>th</sup> Street between Country Club and Carthage Street to intercept runoff. Structure flooding is occurring at this location along with severe street and yard flooding. Resurfacing of this section of South 65<sup>th</sup> Street is also included in this project. The second location includes the installation of storm drainage inlets and culverts along Boston Street between Towson Avenue and Jenny Lind Road to eliminate the steep and eroding roadside ditches. Resurfacing of this section of Boston Street is also included in this project. Construction was completed in summer of 2022.

2020 Drainage Improvements, Phase A. The project consists of proposed repair of bank erosion and improvements to prevent future erosion of the City's Southern Enterprises Levee. Construction will begin in 2023 pending approval by the Corps of Engineers.

2020 Drainage Improvements, Phase B. The project consists of drainage improvements from Euper Lane through South 71<sup>st</sup> Street and South S Circle to South T Street; along Martin Drive and through Candlestick Circle to the existing channel behind Candlestick Court; and improvements along Moody Drive to Painter Drive. The project will also include overlay/reconstruction of South 71<sup>st</sup> Street and South S Circle. Construction is ongoing with estimated completion in late 2022.

2020 Drainage Improvements, Phase C. The project consists of drainage improvements for the Brooken Hill area and South 88<sup>th</sup> Street area. Construction is estimated to begin in 2023.

2020 Drainage Improvements, Phase D. The project consists of constructing approximately 600 feet of large double concrete box culverts along the west side of the University of Arkansas Fort Smith campus parking lot south of Grand Avenue. The existing channel is undersized and experienced significant damage / undermining during the heavy rains in 2019. Construction was completed in summer of 2021.

2020 Drainage Improvements, Phase E. The project includes the installation of a cured in place lining in a major storm sewer line. This 60" to 72" line (Carnall Outfall) extends from Towson Avenue to the Poteau River. Construction is scheduled to begin in late 2022.

2020 Drainage Improvements, Phase F. The project includes the installation of a cured in place lining in a major storm sewer line. This 54" line (J Street Outfall) extends from the Fort Smith Floodwall to the Arkansas River. Construction is ongoing with completion in late 2022.

2021 Drainage Improvements, Phase A. The project consists of the rechannelization of approximately 1,500 feet of existing earthen channel between Briarcliff Avenue and Grinnell Avenue. The existing channel is severely eroding and will be concrete lined. The project will

also add an additional box culvert under Grinnell Avenue which has been known to overtop and cause structure flooding in the area. Construction is estimated to begin in 2023.

2021 Drainage Improvements, Phase B. This project consists of drainage improvements to reduce structure flooding at three locations which include the 7900 block of Yorktown Road; 3800-3900 block of Park Avenue; and 3400 Edinburgh Drive. Construction is estimated to begin in 2023.

2021 Drainage Improvements, Phase C. This project consists of drainage improvements in the 4300 block of Phoenix Avenue and the 7200 block of US Hwy. 271 which are associated with structure flooding. Construction is estimated to begin in 2023.

2021 Drainage Improvements, Phase D. This project will add gabion baskets to parts of Mill Creek that are experiencing severe channel erosion. Construction was completed in summer of 2022.

2021 May Branch Outfall Culvert Remediation. This project consists of the replacement and repair of approximately 1,000 feet of existing 12’x10’ precast box culvert at the P Street Flood Pump Station on North P Street. Construction is estimated to begin in early 2023.

2022 Drainage Improvements, Phase A. This project consists of drainage improvements at three locations: 1.) Hardscrabble Way/South 56th Street - This location will install storm drain/inlets, trench drains and a drainage channel to intercept and redirect runoff. 2.) 2600 Block of Dallas Street - This location will install a storm drain/inlets and trench drains to intercept and redirect runoff. 3.) 2700 Block of Glen Flora Way - This location will remove and replace this storm drain, and install an inlet or trench drain to intercept and redirect runoff. Construction is estimated to begin in late 2023.

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| FLU 1.4 | Ensure adequate, well-maintained infrastructure, public safety, and public facilities for all development and prevent development ahead of infrastructure and service provision.                     |
| TI 4.1  | Continue to ensure that customers within Fort Smith have access to reliable water, sewer, drainage, solid waste services by reducing or eliminating deficiencies and gaps in infrastructure systems. |
| TI 4.2  | Ensure that utility and infrastructure systems can meet the city's long-term needs.  |
| NCR 2.6 | Reduce stormwater runoff and flooding.   |

## **Street Overlays / Reconstruction Projects**

There are twelve (12) street overlay/reconstruction projects. These projects consist of asphalt street overlays, street reconstruction where needed, and minor drainage improvements along the street corridor. These projects reflect FLU 1.4, TI 4.1 and TI 4.2.

2020 Street Overlays/Reconstruction, Phase C. This project consists of approximately 2.2 miles of asphalt street overlays/reconstruction throughout the city. The project also includes railroad crossing repairs on Roberts Boulevard, which includes the installation of concrete panels to improve the street driving surface. Construction was completed in early 2022.

2020 Street Overlays/Reconstruction, Phase D. This project consists of approximately 2.1 miles of asphalt street overlays/reconstruction throughout the city. Construction was completed in early 2022.

2021 Street Overlays/Reconstruction, Phase A. This project consists of approximately 2.1 miles of asphalt street overlays/reconstruction throughout the city. Construction is ongoing with estimated completion in late 2022.

2021 Street Overlays/Reconstruction, Phase B. This project consists of approximately 1.6 miles of asphalt street overlays/reconstruction throughout the city. Construction is ongoing with estimated completion in late 2022.

2021 Street Overlays/Reconstruction, Phase C. This project consists of approximately 2.2 miles of asphalt street overlays/reconstruction throughout the city. Construction is ongoing with estimated completion in late 2022.

2021 Street Overlays/Reconstruction, Phase D. This project consists of approximately 1.9 miles of asphalt street overlays/reconstruction throughout the city and the installation of concrete railroad crossing panels at six crossings. Construction was completed in summer of 2022.

2022 Street Overlays/Reconstruction, Phase A. This project consists of approximately 1.1 miles of asphalt street overlays/reconstruction throughout the city. Construction is estimated to start in early 2023.

2022 Street Overlays/Reconstruction, Phase B. This project consists of approximately 1.9 miles of asphalt street overlays/reconstruction throughout the city. Construction is estimated to start in early 2023.

2022 Street Overlays/Reconstruction, Phase C. This project consists of approximately 1 mile of asphalt street overlays/reconstruction for Waldron Road, from Grand Avenue to Gordon Lane. Construction is estimated to be completed in late 2022.

2022 Street Overlays/Reconstruction, Phase D. This project consists of approximately 1.8 miles of asphalt street overlays/reconstruction throughout the city and the installation of concrete railroad crossing panels at three crossings. Construction is estimated to start in early 2023.

2022 Street Overlays/Reconstruction, Phase E. This project consists of approximately 1.5 miles of asphalt street overlays/reconstruction throughout the city. Construction is estimated to start in late 2022.

2022 Street Overlays/Reconstruction, Phase F. This project consists of approximately 1.6 miles of asphalt street overlays/reconstruction throughout the city. Construction is estimated to start in early 2023.

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| FLU 1.4 | Ensure adequate, well-maintained infrastructure, public safety, and public facilities for all development and prevent development ahead of infrastructure and service provision.                     |
| TI 4.1  | Continue to ensure that customers within Fort Smith have access to reliable water, sewer, drainage, solid waste services by reducing or eliminating deficiencies and gaps in infrastructure systems. |
| TI 4.2  | Ensure that utility and infrastructure systems can meet the city's long-term needs.  |

## Traffic Signal Improvements

There were three (3) traffic signal improvement projects. These projects consist of the complete replacement of all outdated traffic signal equipment and poles. These projects reflect FLU 1.4 and TI 4.2.

2020 Traffic Signal Improvements, Phase A. This project consists of the replacement of all outdated traffic signal equipment and poles at Midland Boulevard and Riverfront Drive & Fresno Street and Wheeler Avenue. Construction was completed in early 2022.

2020 Traffic Signal Improvements, Phase D. This project consists of the installation of a new traffic signal at the intersection of Phoenix Avenue and South 46<sup>th</sup> Street. Construction was completed in summer of 2021.

2021 Traffic Signal Improvements, Phase A. This project consists of the replacement of all outdated traffic signal equipment and poles at three intersections along 9<sup>th</sup> Street. These intersections include Rogers Avenue, North A Street and North B Street. Construction is ongoing with completion in late 2022.

2022 Traffic Signal Improvements, Phase A. This project consists of the replacement of all outdated traffic signal equipment and poles at two intersections along North 6<sup>th</sup> Street. These intersections include North A Street and North B Street. Construction is estimated for 2023.

2022 Traffic Signal Improvements, Phase B. This project includes the installation of Advanced Transportation Controllers and the development of timing plans to improve traffic flow for a total of twenty intersections along Kelley Highway, Midland Boulevard and Phoenix Avenue corridors. Construction is estimated for 2023.

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| FLU 1.4 | Ensure adequate, well-maintained infrastructure, public safety, and public facilities for all development and prevent development ahead of infrastructure and service provision. |
| TI 4.2  | Ensure that utility and infrastructure systems can meet the city's long-term needs.  |



## Engineering Department Top 10 Projects

Listed below, in no particular order, are the top 10 projects that the Engineering Department believes are the most important and the most beneficial to our community. The projects overlap with the Engineering Department's Street and Drainage Capital Improvement Plan.

1. Street Overlays and Reconstruction – This work includes improvements to the street surface for numerous streets across the city.
2. Neighborhood Drainage Improvements – This work includes improvements to reduce the frequency of flooding for various locations across the city. The primary focus are projects to reduce the structure flooding of properties.
3. Downtown Traffic and Truck Route – This planning study by ArDOT will determine the need for and feasibility of improvements to the State Highway System, in and surrounding downtown Fort Smith, including the feasibility of constructing a new Highway 64 River crossing.
4. Intersection and Signal Improvements – This work includes replacement and upgrades to outdated traffic signal equipment and poles and intersection improvements to improve traffic flow.
5. Kelley Highway Extension to Riverfront Drive – This project includes the reconstruction and widening of Kelley Highway to a three lane section from Midland Boulevard to Riverfront Drive. This extension of Kelley Highway will provide a direct route between I-540 and the riverfront area.
6. Towson Avenue – This project by ArDOT (partnered with the City) includes the rehabilitation of the approximately four mile section of Towson Avenue (Hwy. 71B) between Garrison Avenue (Hwy. 64) and Zero Street (Hwy. 255). The project will include upgrading of the drainage system to current standards, replacement of the curb/guttering and driveway approaches, installation of sidewalks and pavement improvements to the street surface.
7. Geren Road Reconstruction - This project is the reconstruction and widening of Geren Road to a three lane section between Highway 45 and 58<sup>th</sup> Street.
8. Zero Street (Hwy 255) Widening – This project by ArDOT includes the widening and realignment of Zero Street (Hwy. 255) between Massard Creek and Hwy. 22. The project is a collaboration between the Cities of Fort Smith and Barling, Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority, and ArDOT. This project will create a much needed continuous five lane roadway extending from I-540 to the Hwy. 22/59 intersection.
9. Flooded Residence Buyout Program - This buyout program applies city wide and is used to purchase residential properties that have experienced structure flooding if the cost of

the residence/property is less than the cost of public drainage improvements to reduce the flooding.

10. Hwy 45 Widening – This project includes the widening of Highway 45 between Highway 71 and Highway 255 (Zero Street). The project also includes the installation of a traffic signal at the intersections of Highway 45 with Planters Road and Geren Road. The project is a collaboration between the City of Fort Smith, Sebastian County and ArDOT. The widening of section of Highway 45 will create a much needed continuous five lane roadway extending from I-540 to Hwy. 71.

### **Engineering Department Top Wins and Top Wants**

The Top Wins for the Engineering Department include completion of the numerous Major Street Work projects, Drainage Improvements, Street Overlays/Reconstruction projects, and Traffic Signal Improvements as summarized in this Comprehensive Plan Implementation Report for 2021-2022. The Top Want for the Engineering Department is to be fully staffed with Project Engineers. This has been an ongoing problem and the Department has been short two of four Project Engineers during the past year.