



City focuses on 24 Highway



Artist rendering of what completed 24 Highway Bridge will look like.

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The City of Independence is working toward a brighter future for the 24 Highway Corridor through regional collaboration and by leveraging local, state and federal funds to

maximize the impacts of overlapping projects in the area. When completed this will result in an estimated investment of more than \$16 million in improvements for this vital corridor.

“For generations, 24 Highway has been a main corridor into our community and we are excited to see these long awaited improvements begin in the area,” First District Councilmember John Perkins said. “From the 24 Highway Bridge to Truman Connected, these plans are overlapping in a thoughtful and intentional way to maximize the local, state and federal funding available in the most effective way possible. This will result in a more accessible and inclusive corridor for our residents and visitors.”

“We know this investment will positively impact our economic and workforce development efforts in northern Independence,” Mayor Eileen Weir said. “Improving the roads with greater access for all modes of transportation will make it easier for everyone to travel to and from work or leisure activities. Timing these together with the remodel of the Truman Library and the work on Truman Connected will connect our city with the region in ways never before seen in our community. We are truly excited about the potential of this work.”

The 24 Highway projects in the works at this time include:

- The 24 Hwy Bridge project which is estimated to be completed in the summer of 2020. This project will increase the visibility of and access to the Truman Library with an improved bridge and walking trail into the area at 24 Highway and Bess Truman Parkway. The completed project will include Truman and three trails themed murals.

- Complete Streets which will add pedestrian, bike and vehicle friendly facilities along Highway from MO-291 to River Boulevard. The enhanced project will be a sidewalk on one side and a mixed-use path on the other. There will be roadway and intersection safety improvements along the entire corridor. This project is estimated to cost \$10.2 million of which approximately \$1.6 million will be paid for by the City.
- Design for the first phase of Truman Connected will begin in Spring 2020; federal funds for construction will be available in 2022. When complete, the plan will include a concept for a bike/pedestrian corridor that will connect residents and visitors to neighborhoods, Independence Square, Truman Library, Englewood Arts District, Truman Sports Complex, and the Rock Island Trail.

These plans also expand on the Fairmount District Plan approved by the City Council in 2017. The City is working closely with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) as plans are finalized for the 24 Highway improvements to include proposals made in this plan. One of the key focuses include aligning cross street intersections along 24 Highway in the Fairmount area which will improve access and safety for visitors and residents in the area.

“For every dollar the City is investing in this area, we are leveraging nearly \$6 matching state and federal funds for these projects,” Councilmember Perkins said. “The 24 Highway Complete Streets funding the City has been awarded is considered a big win for the Fairmount region. These improvements will be a work in progress for several years with many opportunities for the community to participate in planning and feedback. Look for updates to come as these projects continue in the area.”

The City is also working with MoDOT to extend the 24 Highway corridor Improvements from River Boulevard all the way to Wilson Road. MoDOT and the City are both working to identify funds to design and construct this project in 2023-24. Estimates and funding are still “in-progress” for this phase of the work which would extend the complete streets concept, construct safety improvements for all users, and implement major aspects of the Fairmount District Plan.

Upcoming Events in 2020

January

New Year's Day

Wednesday, Jan. 1

City offices closed in honor of the holiday.

Winter Farmers Market

First Saturday, 9 a.m. - NOON

The Winter Farmers' Market at the Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd., will take place the first Saturday of each month Dec. through April. Market hours are from 9 a.m. - Noon.

The Original Tindall Art Show

Jan. 7 - March 31

Dewitt Center at George Owens Nature Park

Learn about Independence artist Robert E. Tindall and view 20+ original prints of his works in the DeWitt Center at George Owens Nature Park.

Cody Johnson & Friends Live in Concert

6:30-10 p.m. | Saturday, Jan. 11

Cody Johnson is coming to Independence on Jan. 11, 2020. The brand new album, "Ain't Nothin' to It," is available to stream and download now. Cody Johnson & Friends. Live in concert. Check more at codyjohnsonmusic.com.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, Jan. 20

City offices will be closed in honor of the holiday.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration

7 p.m. | Jan. 20

Truman Memorial Building

Join us for this annual event with guest speaker Roger Napue, a Nicodemus Kansas Historical Society board member.

A Night of Ghost Hunting at the Vaile Mansion

8 p.m. - 2 a.m. | Friday, Jan. 31

Vaile Mansion

Become a paranormal investigator for the night in one of Missouri's most haunted locations.

Find more events at visitindependence.com

February

PowerPalooza

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Sat., Feb. 1

Roger T. Sermon Community Center

A fun family event with carnival games, performances and food to help raise funds for the Powerhouse Theatre Foundation.

Winter Farmers Market

First Saturday, 9 a.m. - NOON

The Winter Farmers' Market at the Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd., will take place the first Saturday of each month Dec. through April. Market hours are from 9 a.m. - Noon.

President's Day

Monday, Feb. 17

City offices will be closed in honor of the holiday.

Rivalry at the Rink

7-10 p.m. | Friday, Feb. 28

Silverstein Eye Centers Arena

The rivalry is back! MU vs KU, a battle that has been fought for decades. The two longtime foes will face each other on the ice on February 28 at Silverstein Eye Centers Arena. It's time to write the next chapter in this epic rivalry. M-I-Z or Rock Chalk?

March

Baby Shark Live!

3 p.m. | Sunday, March 1

Silverstein Eye Centers Arena

Take an adventure into the sea with Baby Shark as he joins up with his friend Pinkfong to sing and dance through some of your favorite new and classic songs! Baby Shark Live! is a state of the art enchanting kids spectacular.

Winter Farmers Market

First Saturday, 9 a.m. - NOON

The Winter Farmers' Market at the Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd., will take place the first Saturday of each month Dec. through April. Market hours are from 9 a.m. - Noon.

"The Language of Flowers" Tea Party

2-4 p.m. | Saturday, March 28

Vaile Mansion

Look for more details to come.

Ghost Hunting at the Vaile Mansion

8 p.m. - 2 a.m. | Saturday, March 28

Vaile Mansion

Become a paranormal investigator for the night in one of Missouri's most haunted locations.

April

City Historic Homes Reopen for the season

Wednesday, April 1

Vaile Mansion, Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 1827 Log Courthouse

Look for more details to come.

Winter Farmers Market

First Saturday, 9 a.m. - NOON

The Winter Farmers' Market at the Independence Uptown Market, 211 W. Truman Rd., will take place the first Saturday of each month Dec. through April. Market hours are from 9 a.m. - Noon.

30th Annual Youth Art Show

April 18 and 19

Roger T. Sermon Community Center

Join us from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 18, and from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 19 to enjoy the outstanding artwork of our talented Eastern Jackson County high school students. The annual "Festival of Color" Youth Art Show will be at the Roger T. Sermon Community Center, 201 N. Dodgion. This event is free and open to the public. Presented by the Citizen's Civic and Cultural Committee and the Independence Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department.

Adult Fitness Programs and Activities

Looking to keep that resolution or just to try something new? Check out the full list of adult fitness programs and activities sponsored by Independence Parks, Recreation and Tourism. From just-for-fun to challenging, there's something for everyone. View the full calendar of programs at [indep.us/parksreactivities](http://indep.us/parksrecreactivities) or check us out on Facebook at facebook.com/IndependenceParksandRecreation.



Help us protect our water

A large part of our City is served by some portion of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System. We call it separate because it is distinctly different from the sanitary sewer system that carries wastewater from the plumbing drains in homes, businesses and many other facilities.

That wastewater stream is collected and treated by the Independence Rock Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Waters that enter the storm sewer system are eventually carried to creeks, streams and rivers in our community. Storm water is not treated, other than by natural processes that may occur as the water travels through the environment. So it is important to be aware that some discharges to the storm sewer system can be harmful to the environment; we call these illicit discharges. Illicit discharges are anything other than storm water, except

water that results from firefighting or discharges that are authorized by a State permit. (See Independence City Code Chapter 7, Article 8.)



The storm sewer system is intended to carry rain, snow melt and runoff, to help clear streets and provide drainage during rain events. Any other liquid discharge to the storm sewer system is prohibited, such as swimming pool water and filter backwash; washing machine water; oil, antifreeze and other automotive fluids; chemicals and cooking oils. Also, deposits of solid wastes, such as yard clippings and even garbage have been known to be placed in a storm drain. These are definitely a no-no.

If you remember that there is a stream at the end of every storm drain, providing a home to fish, insects, frogs and plants, you will understand that it really does matter if you throw that waste into a street side curb inlet. If you would like to learn more about the City's

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, please call Water Pollution Control at (816) 325-7711, or visit our website at indep.us/wpc.

Dust off those sneakers and get ready to run

Get ready to run, walk or roll! The 9th Annual Independence Park Trot 5K Run/Walk will be Saturday, May 2, 2020, 8 a.m., at Waterfall Park, 18001 Bass Pro Drive. Registration opens January 20 at IndependenceParkTrot.com. Chip-timing will be offered to all participants who register online by 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, April 29. There will also be a FREE Kids' Dash for ages 10 and younger following the 5K at 9 a.m.

Adult and child sized t-shirts will be available for \$10 through the Park Trot website until Sunday, April 19. In-person registration (no chip timing), pre-registered bib and t-shirt pick-up will be held Friday, May 1 from 3 - 6 p.m. at Bass Pro Shops and from 7 - 7:40 a.m. on race day, Saturday, May 2. A parent or legal guardian must sign a waiver for anyone under age 18 participating in the race. Watch for information about the City's FREE Couch to 5K program, which leads up to the Park Trot.

The City of Independence and Centerpoint Medical Center, the 2020 official 5K and

Couch to 5K sponsor, provide this race FREE of charge so everyone has an opportunity to participate. For more information about the Independence Park Trot, or to register for the event, visit IndependenceParkTrot.com, contact Selena Good at sgood@indepmo.org or (816)325-7187.



The facility will be available for rentals until 11PM both days, staffing fees will apply. Hours on M/W/Thur. will continue to be 9AM-7PM and Tuesdays 9AM-8PM.

NEW HOURS

Beginning January 1 the Truman Memorial Building is adjusting facility hours on Fridays to 9AM to 3PM and will be closed on Saturdays.

Spotlighting kindness



During her annual prayer breakfast on Nov. 27, Mayor Weir took a moment to spotlight three people who have gone above and beyond to spread kindness in our community.

In August 2019, Officer Holt took a few moments to share a simple picture of a young man helping a woman across the parking lot during a rain storm. He was so touched by what he saw, he not only stopped to tell this young man's mother how proud of him he was, Officer Holt followed up to take this young man to dinner and celebrate this act of simple kindness. This story was shared thousands of times on social media and aired across the country. Tyrea is pictured above on the left.

Ross Wiley can be found walking along roads of Independence most days of the week. He shares his wanderings, the people he meets and how this has helped him grow. He is pictured above on the Mayor's right.

Also recognized for their kind act was Waste Management Sanitation Collector Billy Shelby. Earlier this fall home security video captured Mr. Shelby walking an elderly resident of Independence back to her door. Mr. Shelby does this each week, after witnessing this resident take a fall in the icy conditions last winter. His story also went viral, appearing on all major stations in the Kansas City metro area.

This capped off a month focused on kindness in Independence. Citizens are encouraged to continue to look for such acts of kindness and share them with the City on social media using the hashtag #kindindependence.



Share your Independence Story with us at indep.us/myindependence



2020 Legislative Priorities

The 2020 State Legislative Session begins on Wednesday, January 8, 2020. Each year the City of Independence creates a list of legislative priorities based on Council goals and Independence for All, the City's Strategic Plan.

This year the top legislative priorities for the City of Independence are:

- Pursue legislation that may allow cities to suspend Missouri driver's licenses when people repeatedly fail to appear in Municipal Court
- Oppose efforts to cap local sales tax rates or efforts to deny voters the ability to determine the local sales tax rates

- Partner with other municipalities and entities to ensure that the Steamboat Arabia Museum stays in Missouri
- Oppose any efforts to reduce the Cable Franchise Fee
- Continue to advocate for local control over poles and small cell phone attachments for cellular service

The last day legislation will be considered by the 100th General Assembly is May 15, 2020 and the Session ends on May 30. The Governor must approve or veto bills by July 14. An update on the Legislative Session will be provided to the public after the end of session in June.

Now accepting applications for 2020 Citizens Academy

The City of Independence is now accepting applications for the Citizens Academy through Friday, March 6. This year's session will begin on May 5.

The Citizens Academy is an eight-week program designed to provide individuals with a behind-the-scenes look at the City functions in various departments. Each week will focus on a different area of the City. Classes do involve some walking as tours are often part of the curriculum. Previous class highlights include riding in the bucket of a fire truck, operating specialized equipment and witnessing a live Police K-9 demonstration.

Applicants are asked to commit to attending at least six of the eight meetings. For questions or to apply please contact Sam Morris at (816) 325-7170 or by email to smorris@indepmo.org. You may also apply online at IndependenceMo.org.



City7

City of Independence
Government Access Television

City Council Meetings

Live meetings at 6 p.m. on Mondays
9 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
1 p.m. Sundays

Planning Commission Meetings

Live meetings at 6 p.m. on 2nd and 4th
Tuesdays of month
10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays
1 p.m. on Saturdays

Learn more at indep.us/city7.

Numbers to Remember

The City of Independence has an automated voice-response telephone system. Call (816)325-7000 and say the name of the person or the department you wish to contact.

Adopt-a-Street 325-7602
Barking Dogs 325-7213
Building Permits 325-7401
Business Licenses 325-7079
Crime Stoppers Tips 474-8477
Drop-Off Depot/Trash 325-7600
Drugs 325-6272
Graffiti 257-7824

Municipal Court 325-7230
Neighborhood Watch 325-7643
Park Vandalism 325-7208
Police Non-Emergency 325-7300
Fire Non-Emergency 325-7123
Potholes 325-7624
Report Power Outage 325-7550
Street Lights 325-7535
Stormwater Pollution 325-7727
Utilities
Customer Service 325-7930
Pay by Phone 325-SERV
Payment Assistance 254-4100
Weeds, Trash 325-7193

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Eileen Weir (816) 325-7027
City Council Office (816) 325-7022
Online at indep.us/citycouncil.
Email at citycouncil@indepmo.org.

Councilmembers

John Perkins District 1
Curt Dougherty District 2
Scott Roberson District 3
Tom Van Camp District 4
Karen DeLuccie At-Large
Mike Huff At-Large
City Manager
Zachary Walker (816) 325-7170

Where can I...

Pay my Jackson County property taxes:

Historic Truman Courthouse
112 W Lexington, Suite 114
Independence, MO 64050
Phone: (816) 881-3232

Apply for a marriage license:

Historic Truman Courthouse
112 W Lexington, Suite 30
Independence, Missouri 64050
Phone: (816) 881-4608

Apply for a business license:

Independence City Hall
111 E. Maple
Independence, MO 64050
Phone: (816) 325-7079

Pay a ticket issued by the City:

Independence City Hall
111 E. Maple
Independence, MO 64050
Phone: (816) 325-7230
Some tickets may be paid online at
indep.us/paytickets.

For more information on Jackson County offices, visit www.jacksongov.org.

For more information on City offices, visit www.indepmo.org.

Regional Animal Shelter

21001 E. Hwy. 78, Independence
Help them find a forever home.
Adopt a homeless pet.
11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Wed. - Sun.
Call (816) 325-7207



Always Spay or Neuter!

