



## MEMO

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**TO:** NWARPC Policy Committee  
**FROM:** NWARPC Staff  
**DATE:** August 22, 2024  
**RE:** NARTS Draft 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

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### BACKGROUND

Over the past several months NWARPC has worked with member jurisdictions, ARDOT, MoDOT, transit agencies and the TAC and RPC/Policy Committee to develop the NARTS Draft FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The NARTS TIP identifies the projects planned and projected from Federal Fiscal Year 2025 through Federal Fiscal Year 2028 (October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2028). The Draft TIP is now in the final development stages.

The Draft TIP includes all federally funded transportation and transit projects in Benton and Washington Counties, along with a portion of McDonald County, Missouri, programmed within the four-year time period. The NARTS TIP is a component of the Arkansas and Missouri Statewide TIP, and as such, the projects, funding amounts, categories, FFY, etc., must match the STIPs.

In accordance with the NWARPC Public Participation Plan (PPP), the following public notification process was followed for public comment on the Draft TIP:

- Legal Notice was published in the Democrat Gazette on Sunday, July 7, 2024, in the Spanish-language La Prensa Libre on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, and in the McDonald County Press on Thursday, July 11, 2024, and online at [www.nwarpc.org/public-notifications/](http://www.nwarpc.org/public-notifications/), including information pertaining to the public forum and 2-week public comment period, and the TIP approval process.
- TAC reviewed the draft TIP on July 18, 2024 and voted to send the draft to Public Comment.
- A Public Forum was held on Thursday, July 18, 2024, immediately following the TAC meeting at the NWARPC Offices.
- A Public Comment Period was held from Thursday, July 18, 2024 through Friday, August 2, 2024. Written comments were encouraged via email or through the comments tab online, [www.nwarpc.org/contact/](http://www.nwarpc.org/contact/).
- Legal Notice was published in the Democrat Gazette on Sunday, August 4, 2024, in the Spanish-language La Prensa Libre on Wednesday, August 7, 2024, and in the McDonald County Press and on Thursday, August 8, 2024, and online at [www.nwarpc.org/public-notifications/](http://www.nwarpc.org/public-notifications/), including information pertaining to the TIP approval process.
- Meeting notices for July and August were also sent to appropriate federal, state, and local agencies, interested citizens and the press. Information was posted on the NWARPC website and made available in the NWARPC office.
- A flyer announcing the Public Forum and public comment period was posted on ORT and Razorback Transit buses and websites.
- Letters were sent to area Spanish-speaking churches and human service agencies announcing the Public Forum, public comment period, and the TAC and RPC/Policy Committee July and August meetings.

The public comment period for the NARTS TIP concluded August 2, 2024, and the comments received at the Public Forum and via email are summarized here.

The [Draft ARDOT Statewide Transportation Improvement Program \(STIP\)](#) Public Comment Period was held through July 22, 2024. Several Northwest Arkansas communities emailed their comments to [STIP@ardot.gov](mailto:STIP@ardot.gov).

### PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED AT PUBLIC FORUM

No comments were received at the public forum held Thursday, July 18, 2024.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL

July 22, 2024 – City of Lowell, Mayor Chris Moore RE: Lowell, W Monroe Ave/Hwy 264 Expansion (see comments attached)



July 22, 2024

NWA Regional Planning Commission  
c/o Nicole Gibbs, AICP  
1311 Clayton St  
Springdale, AR 72762

RE: Lowell, W Monroe Ave/Hwy 264 expansion – NARTS Draft FFY 2025-2028 TIP

Dear Ms. Gibbs,

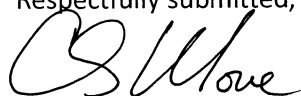
Thank you for the opportunity to submit our project for review. The W Monroe Ave/Highway 264 Expansion project, from Bellview Road to Goad Springs Road in Lowell, is urgently needed. This section of Arkansas State Hwy. 264 is approximately 5,200 feet and is a narrow two-lane road, with no turn lane or shoulders. Widening this stretch of highway would create a safer flow of traffic as this area has become a major corridor for transportation here in Northwest Arkansas. Business developments between Interstate 49 and Bellview Street in Lowell continually cause traffic to back-up and quickly become congested while vehicles wait to turn into these businesses. The Arkansas State Police headquarters is located along this section of road. The State Police perform drivers tests for new drivers on this underdeveloped roadway, and the city has high concern for the public safety of these new drivers. The unprecedented congestion on this particular stretch of two-lane highway is becoming more and more perilous during morning and evening commutes.

In addition to the projected increase in population of NWA, there are several future road projects planned in and around Lowell that will direct more traffic onto this stretch of Monroe Ave. The Lowell master street plan has a north south arterial road intersecting this highway at Bellview St/Spring Creek St and W Monroe Ave/Hwy 264. A roundabout will be constructed at the intersection of Bellview St and W Monroe Ave. The city of Rogers master street plan has N Goad Springs St planned as a future major arterial from Pleasant Grove Rd. to the already developed three-lane N Goad Springs St in Lowell. Rogers has constructed Bellview St to a minor arterial. When Lowell widens their portion of Bellview St and Spring Creek St and constructs the roundabout at the intersection of Bellview St and W Monroe Ave, the road will become a north south corridor from New Hope Rd in Rogers to E Brown Rd in Lowell and Springdale. Given the proposed connections of major and minor arterials of regional roadways, the anticipated increase in traffic on W Monroe Ave./Highway 264 between Bellview St and N Goad Springs St will be incredible. We would greatly appreciate NWA Regional Planning Commission's inclusion of this road expansion in the NWARPC NARTS draft FFY 2025-2028 TIP.

*Chris Moore, Mayor*

216 N. Lincoln Street  
Lowell, AR 72745  
[www.lowellarkansas.gov](http://www.lowellarkansas.gov)

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "C" being particularly large and stylized.

Chris Moore

Mayor

City of Lowell, Arkansas

*Cc: Tim Conklin, NWARPC*

*Chris Moore, Mayor*

*216 N. Lincoln Street  
Lowell, AR 72745  
[www.lowellarkansas.gov](http://www.lowellarkansas.gov)*

**From:** [Karen Davis](#)  
**To:** [Nicole Gibbs](#)  
**Cc:** [Chris Moore](#); [Tim Conklin](#)  
**Subject:** NWARPC NARTS Draft FFY 2025-2028 Project Request  
**Date:** Monday, July 22, 2024 4:25:45 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[Master-Street-Plan---Rogers.pdf](#)  
[NWARPC NARTS Draft FFY 2025-2028 Project Request.pdf](#)  
[LowellMSP Corridors W of I-49.pdf](#)

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Good afternoon Nicole,

Attached is a letter requesting the addition of the W Monroe Ave widening project to the 2025-2028 NWARPC NARTS transportation improvement program. I have attached both the Rogers master street plan and the Lowell master street plan and highlighted the major and minor arterial roads that intercept the section of W Monroe Ave that we are requesting help with. The congestion on this section of W Monroe Ave is only anticipated to get worse as NWA continues to grow and as these partially constructed arterials are completed. This section of W Monroe Ave is a direct connection to I-49 from two major north south corridors and will become a convenient access point to the interstate as the roundabout at Bellview and W Monroe Ave is constructed. The roundabout is anticipated to go to bid in 2025, which does not leave us much time to plan for the road expansion to accommodate the traffic increase. This section of W Monroe Ave is already in a critical state of congestion and it is only expected to get worse. Please consider adding the W Monroe Ave widening to your TIP.

Thank you,

Karen Davis, PCED / Planning/Community Development Director

[kdavis@lowellarkansas.gov](mailto:kdavis@lowellarkansas.gov)

City of Lowell Office: 479.770.2185 ext 224

216 N Lincoln St, Lowell, AR 72745

<http://www.lowellarkansas.gov>

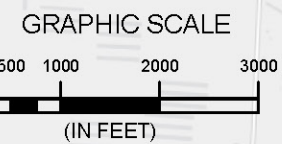
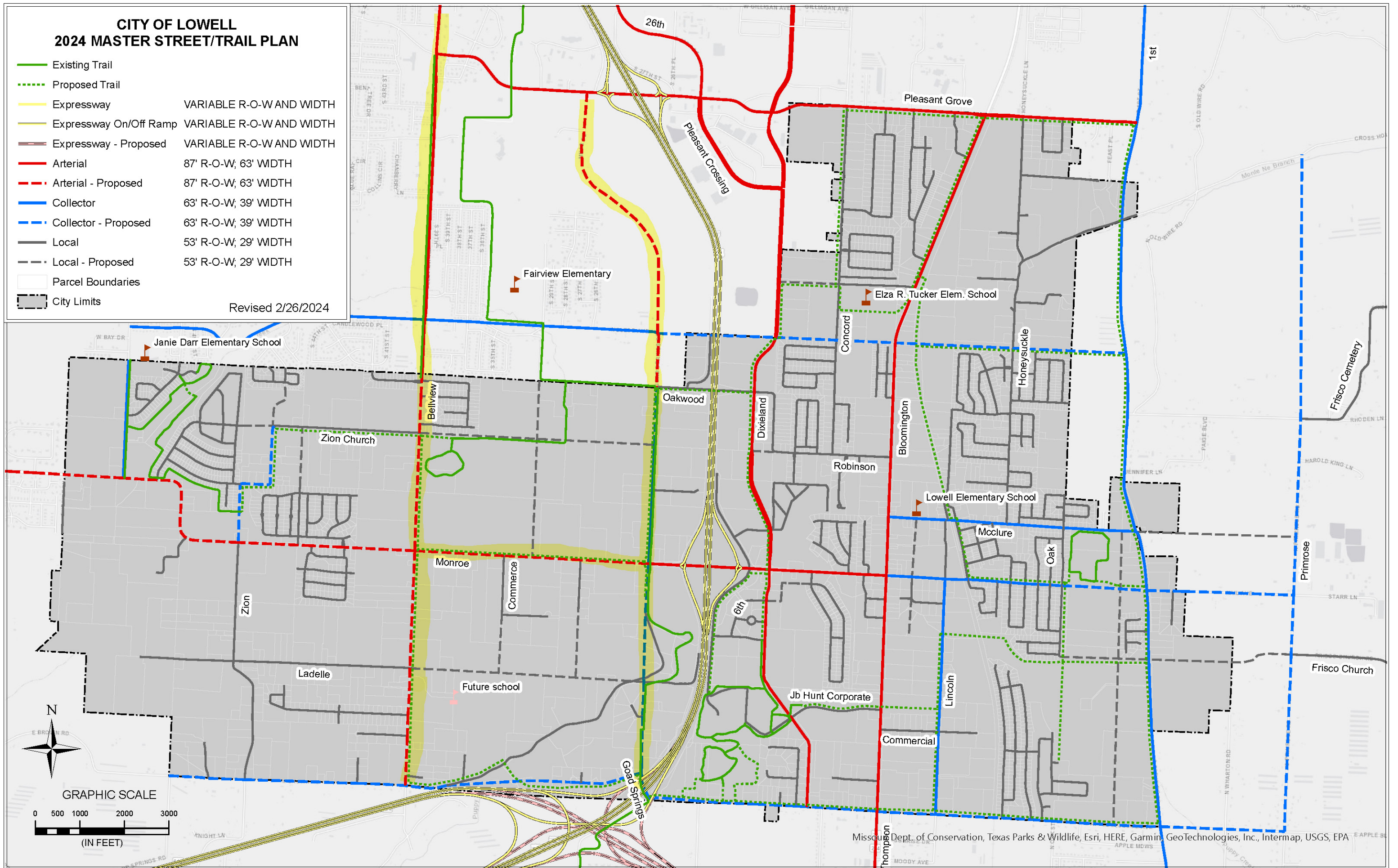


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# CITY OF LOWELL 2024 MASTER STREET/TRAIL PLAN

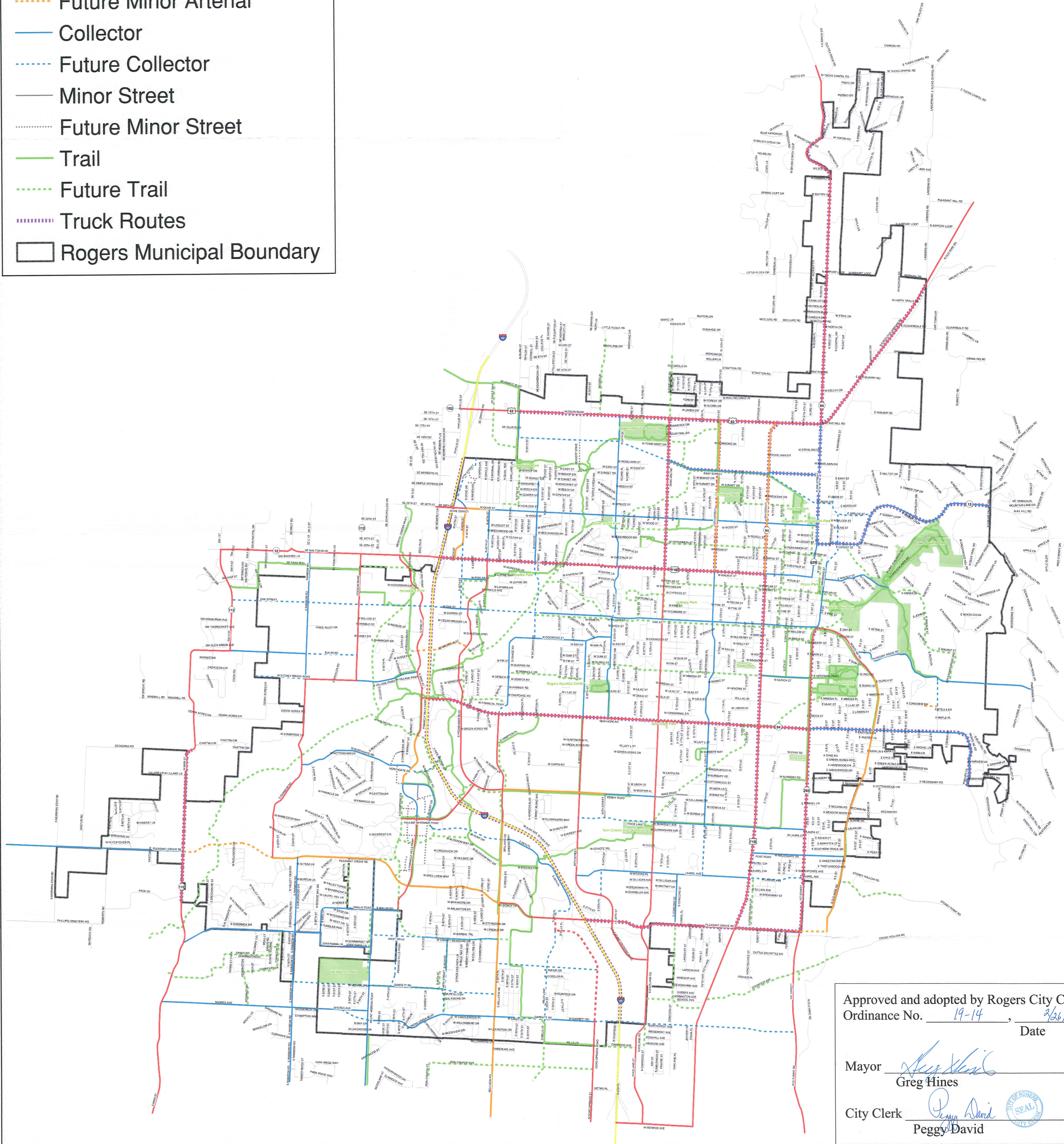
	Existing Trail	
	Proposed Trail	
	Expressway	VARIABLE R-O-W AND WIDTH
	Expressway On/Off Ramp	VARIABLE R-O-W AND WIDTH
	Expressway - Proposed	VARIABLE R-O-W AND WIDTH
	Arterial	87' R-O-W, 63' WIDTH
	Arterial - Proposed	87' R-O-W, 63' WIDTH
	Collector	63' R-O-W, 39' WIDTH
	Collector - Proposed	63' R-O-W, 39' WIDTH
	Local	53' R-O-W, 29' WIDTH
	Local - Proposed	53' R-O-W, 29' WIDTH
	Parcel Boundaries	
	City Limits	

Revised 2/26/2024



# City of Rogers Master Street Plan

- Express/Freeway
- Major Arterial
- - - Future Major Arterial
- Minor Arterial
- - - Future Minor Arterial
- Collector
- - - Future Collector
- Minor Street
- - - Future Minor Street
- Trail
- - - Future Trail
- - - Truck Routes
- Rogers Municipal Boundary



Approved and adopted by Rogers City Council,  
Ordinance No. 19-14, Date 3/26/19

Mayor Greg Hines

City Clerk Peggy David