



WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET*

**City of Kirkwood
City Council Work Session
Thursday, September 12, 2024
4:30 p.m.**

**City Hall, Main Level Conference Room
139 S. Kirkwood Rd.
Kirkwood, MO 63122
(Posted September 10, 2024)**

(Please note that work sessions are for council discussion only and there will be no public comment portion of the meeting. When a topic is completed the council will immediately move on to the next item on the agenda.)

- I. Transportation Development District (TDD) Update**
- II. Motion to close the meeting pursuant to RSMo Chapter 610.021 (1- Legal)**
- III. Motion to open the meeting**
- IV. Meeting Adjournment**

Kirkwood City Council: Mayor Liz Gibbons, Council Members Gina Jaksetic, Nancy Luetzow, Mark McLean, Al Rheinnecker, Paul Schaefer, and Mark Zimmer

Contact Information: For full City Council contact information visit www.kirkwoodmo.org/council. To contact the City Clerk call 314-822-5802. To contact the Chief Administrative Officer call 314-822-5803.

Accommodation: The City of Kirkwood is interested in effective communication for all persons. Persons requiring an accommodation to attend and participate in the meeting should contact the City Clerk at 314-822-5802 at least 48 hours before the meeting. With advance notice of seven calendar days, the City of Kirkwood will provide interpreter services at public meetings for languages other than English and for the hearing impaired. Upon request, the minutes from this meeting can be made available in an alternate format, such as CD by calling 314-822-5802.

Community Survey Executive Summary

September 12, 2024

In August-September 2024, the City conducted an online survey of residents in the City of Kirkwood. The purpose of the survey was to better understand area residents' perceptions of and priorities for the City. One thousand four hundred fifty nine (1,459) respondents completed the survey.

City of Kirkwood performance

Respondents were asked to evaluate the performance of the City of Kirkwood in several areas. Majorities gave high marks to the City in three areas:

- Police protection (92.0%, excellent/good)
- Safe bike and pedestrian railroad crossings (60.6%)
- Road and sidewalk safety (51.3%)

Fewer than half rated the City highly on other items in this section:

- Safe bike lanes on busy roads (46.7%, excellent/good)
- Maintenance and repair of non-residential streets (44.5%)
- Residential sidewalk maintenance and repair (42.6%)
- Residential street maintenance and repair (42.5%)

In two cases, majorities gave negative (not so good/poor) ratings: residential street maintenance and repair (56.8%) residential sidewalk maintenance and repair (52.0%)

Possible proposal for street and sidewalk maintenance/repair

Respondents were told that "the City of Kirkwood is placing a proposal on the November 5 ballot for a one-half cent sales tax to fund street and sidewalk maintenance and repair" and asked how strongly they favored or opposed the proposal. When asked near the beginning of the survey, two thirds (67.4%) of respondents indicated that they favored the proposal, while a quarter (24.6%) were opposed.

At the end of the survey, respondents were asked again about this possible proposal. Support was higher in this case, with seven in ten (71.6%) in favor of the proposal and one in five (20.6%) opposed.

Statements about the City of Kirkwood

Respondents were presented with several statements that “people have made about the City of Kirkwood” and asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed with each. In all but one case, majorities agreed with these statements, especially those regarding traffic and a willingness to support additional taxes for street safety/maintenance.

- Some of our traffic issues happen because of growth in our city. (67.9%, strongly/somewhat agree)
- I’m willing to pay a little more in the way of sales taxes to make sure our streets are safe and well-maintained. (66.7%)
- Something needs to be done to slow automobile traffic in the City of Kirkwood. (63.8%)
- I trust Kirkwood city officials to make the right decisions about the future of our community. (57.3%)
- City government tends to spend too much time worrying about downtown at the expense of our neighborhoods. (56.9%)
- Kirkwood’s streets and roads are generally in good condition. (54.5%)

Fewer than half (48.9%) agreed that “people like me can’t afford higher taxes regardless of the cause.”

Priorities for street/sidewalk maintenance

When asked to prioritize several “types of projects that could be improved with a half-cent sales tax to support street and sidewalk maintenance and repairs plus some other transportation related purposes,” majorities placed at least a “moderate” priority on each. Respondents were most likely to place a *high* priority on residential street maintenance and repair (52.4%).

Fewer than half placed a high priority on other items in this section:

- Upgraded curbs and street gutters to help with stormwater control (37.8%, high priority)
- Improved pedestrian and bike paths (32.6%)
- Maintenance and repair of downtown streets (22.2%)
- Safer bike and pedestrian railroad crossings (21.2%)

TDD Messaging and Theme

Would provide safe and well-maintained streets and sidewalks

Funding from the TDD would more than double the current road funding

Better streets, faster

TDD Web Page Content

Explanation of Ballot Measure, Identification of need, Why TDD rather than other funding means – property tax, etc.

Scrollable alphabetical listing of pavement condition indices for each City of Kirkwood-maintained street.

Color-coded map indicating PCI rating of every City-maintained streets

List of streets to be resurfaced in the first three years (2026, '27 and '28) following implementation of the TDD.

TDD Question and Answer section

Time-Sensitive

QR code for direct link to TDD website

Informational one page flyer for distribution at gatherings such as Greentree Festival and Police Open House

Preparation for informational Open Houses on October 14th and 23rd.

Draft Handout Sheet

Prop. T: Providing Safe and Well-Maintained Streets and Sidewalks

A Critical Need for Our City

Some of Kirkwood's first streets were planned in 1853. For more than 175 years, our City has grown, and our streets have been updated and repaired, but many have reached the end of their life cycle and no longer meet the needs of our community. Prop. T provides funding that is strictly required to fund transportation-related projects for street and sidewalk improvements.

Our Streets & Sidewalks Today

Residents of Kirkwood have voiced their concerns, identifying the condition of our streets and sidewalks as the most pressing issue facing our City. Prop. T would address residential street maintenance and repairs, as well as improving our curbs and gutters to help with stormwater control.

The Solution

To address these concerns, the City of Kirkwood is proposing a solution on the November 5 ballot, Prop. T. The proposal includes a one-half cent sales tax paid by everyone who shops in Kirkwood, including non-residents, and the sales tax funds will be solely dedicated to funding street and sidewalk maintenance and repair. The sales tax would allow the city to more than double the resurfacing that can be accomplished annually and would allow for upgraded curb and gutter projects throughout the City.

Why This Matters

- **Improved Infrastructure:** This funding helps maintain streets and sidewalks to meet current and future needs.
- **Dedicated Funds:** Missouri state law requires that Prop. T funds are used only for transportation-related projects and maintenance in Kirkwood.
- **No Property Tax Increase:** By utilizing the one-half cent sales tax, we can fund the important street and sidewalk improvements without increasing property taxes.

Paid for by The City of Kirkwood, Russell Hawes, Chief Administrative Officer, 139 S. Kirkwood Rd, Kirkwood, MO 63122. For Informational Purposes Only.