



From City Council meeting . . . to Business Council MEMBERS ONLY

Prepared by Rich Groves, Executive Director  
North Kansas City Business Council  
March 7, 2023

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Note: As a reminder, the notes below represent topics that, in my judgement, might be of interest to the business community. It does not include everything that was on the agenda.

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**Work Session/Special Meeting – 6:00 p.m.**

**Possible Uses of Remaining \$922 Thousand in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funding**

## EXPLICIT ELIGIBLE USES

Support the COVID-19 public health and economic response by addressing COVID-19 and its impact on public health as well as addressing economic harms to households, small businesses, non-profits, impacted industries, and the public sector.

Provide premium pay for eligible workers performing essential work, offering additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical sectors.

Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and expand affordable access to broadband internet.

Replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services up to the amount of revenue loss due to the pandemic.

- Retention Program for eligible workers performing essential work. A few cities have utilized these funds as one-time retention payouts, primarily for public safety, municipal services, water, and wastewater operations.
- If Council is interested, staff would recommend the retention program for represented employees. Non-represented employees were addressed in the recent compensation study.
- 93 represented employees (Police and Fire)
  - \$2,000 Retention Program - \$186,000
  - \$3,000 Retention Program - \$279,000
- Must stay with City until end of year 2024.

- Neighborhood grant program. Residents submit ideas for infrastructure projects in their neighborhoods.

- Funding for unhoused programs and resources.

- Funding for utility assistance programs.

- Funding to expand LiNKCity access to existing multifamily units.

- Multi-sport area in Macken Park. A proposed addition to the City's Strategic Plan, a multi-use sport area would provide for youth soccer, basketball, and possibly volleyball. This would address drainage issues, and ruts from overuse of the field, and add more functionality to the space. (est. \$300,000)



- In 2021, the EPA revised its Lead and Copper Rule. On August 4, 2022, EPA released Guidance for Developing and Maintaining a Service Line Inventory to support water systems to develop inventories and provide states with needed information for oversight and reporting to EPA. The Service Line Inventory must be completed by October 16, 2024.
- Once the Inventory is complete, the water service operator must implement a Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) strategy.
- Federal revolving loan programs are available to assist water service operators with the funding to implement their LSLR strategy. While these are helpful programs, they are loans, not outright grants. Funding the local LSLR strategy falls onto the water service operator, the City.



A suggestion from North Kansas City Hospital for use of these ARPA funds was mentioned but not discussed. A last minute document was made available to City Council members but was not displayed on the screen like other suggestions.

Conclusions: There seemed to be a lot of support for the retention program at the \$2,000 level and a preference among other options for “needs” over “wants”.

### Strategic Plan Update Ideas and Prioritization

There was very little remaining time in the Work Session for this subject. Following are some suggestions for consideration.

- Goal 1: Implement Use Tax
- Goal 3: Remove ongoing expenses from the Gaming Fund
- Goal 4: Consider debt issuance for major projects i.e., with water infrastructure

- Explore pursuing Recreational Marijuana Sales Tax (up to 3%)
- Explore development or land use options of vacant city-owned property
- Identify other revenue sources
- Create long-range financial plan (in process)
- Update financial policies i.e., fund balance (in process)
- Consider financial aspects of incentives (in process)
- Use financial incentives to direct public benefits (discussion coming soon)
- Implement more streamlined water billing system (in process)
- Re-examine all permit fees i.e., cost recovery, excise fees (discussion coming soon)
- Accomplish self-sufficiency with Water & Sewer rates (in process)
- Be mindful and intentional when abating taxes (in process)

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

No conclusions were made from this brief discussion about strategic direction.

## Agenda Items

Compared with the two topics in the Work Session there was very little of interest to the business community in tonight's City Council meeting agenda except for the discussion of the new IRIS flex service by KCATA.

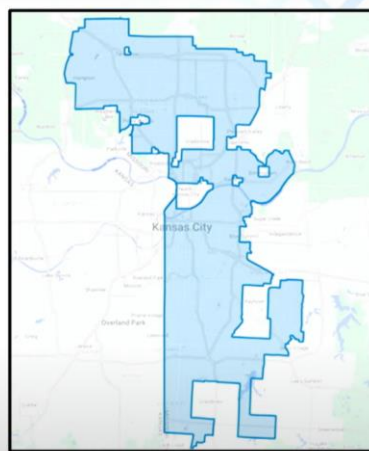
### KCATA Flex Route

Approximately 82% of the total KCATA expense for North Kansas City is for the flex service.

Following is a description of the new IRIS flex service that will serve the entire Northland, not just North Kansas City. Will electric mini-van vehicles and will also offer handicap adapted vehicles.

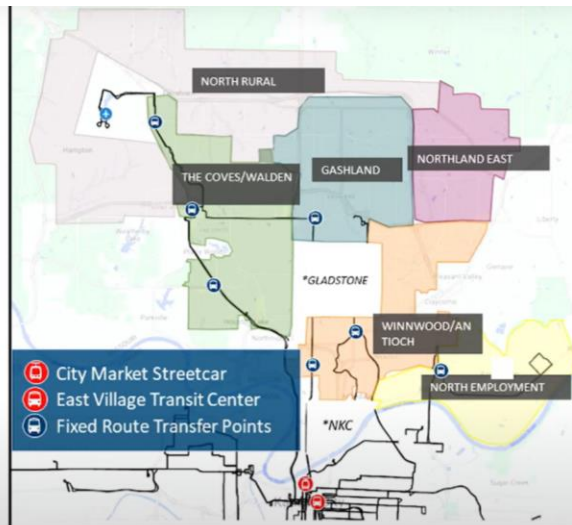
## Phases

- Phase 1: Northland
  - March 15<sup>th</sup>
- Phase 1b: NFL Draft
  - Expand to cover Citywide during the draft
  - Big marketing push
- Phase 2: Citywide Coverage
  - Between May 1-July 1



## Iris Initial Service Area and Fare Structure

- Phase 1: Northland
- Service Zones
  - Cover all of Northland
  - Each zone connected to transit hub (bus symbols)
- Fare Structure
  - Stop-to-stop in-zone: \$3
  - Stop-to-hub in-zone: \$0
  - Zone-to-zone: \$4
  - Airport \$10
  - Can establish new fares as desired



# Moving Forward

- KCATA will present a 9-month contract on March 21.
- Both the missed trips reimbursement, and the service consumed model will be implemented.
- Service consumed ratios will be reviewed and adjusted on a yearly basis.
- IRIS will be implemented at a future date.

## Water Damage to YMCA Gym Floor

Due to December 25 frozen water line break the net result is that the entire floor needs to be replaced. Replacing wood floor is not likely to be feasible. Synthetic sports flooring is likely to be a better solution. This type of flooring is already in use at other YMCA locations as well as one of the program rooms. Replacing with wood would cost from \$800 thousand to a million dollars and would shut down use for 6-8 weeks. Synthetic flooring would cost approximately half that amount and installation would be much quicker. There is also a concern about availability of wood for flooring.

YMCA CEO Mark Hulett explained that all surfaces in YMCA's in the Kansas City area for the past 20+ years have been with synthetic flooring, not wood.

City Council consensus was to use the synthetic flooring option and to use insurance to cover as much as possible.

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The full agenda for this meeting with links to critical documents is available on the City's website [www.nkc.org](http://www.nkc.org) under the heading of Agendas and Minutes. As always, additional details about City Council agenda topics are often available as attachments on the City's website [www.nkc.org](http://www.nkc.org) and later as <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-6WpmTG2Ss> part of the approved minutes.