

SHARICE DAVIDS

3RD DISTRICT, KANSAS

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Congress of the United States

**House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515**

**1541 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2865**

**OVERLAND PARK OFFICE
7325 W 79TH STREET
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66204
(913) 621-0832**

**KANSAS CITY OFFICE
753 STATE AVE, SUITE 460
KANSAS CITY, KS 66101
(913) 766-3993**

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April 30, 2021

Honorable David E. Price
Chairman
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Ranking Member
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

As you begin crafting the Fiscal Year 2022 Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies bill, I respectfully request that you consider the following Community Project funding requests:

1. Johnson County Community College Commercial Driver Training Range – \$5,000,000 – Johnson County Community College – Johnson County Community College, in partnership with the Johnson County Sheriff's Department and Johnson County Government, proposes to develop a 60-acre plot adjacent to the New Century Airport (Gardner, KS) into a multi-purpose driver training range. This space will serve as a driver training range for JCCC's CDL program and training space for local law enforcement and municipalities. Public Benefit for Driver Training Range for JCCC's CDL Program: The Kansas 3rd Congressional District has seen a tremendous demand for heavy and tractor-trailer drivers emerge. According to JobsEQ, currently 16,874 Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers are employed in the Kansas City Metro Area. The need for safe and qualified drivers due to job growth and driver attrition is estimated to be 9,949 over the next 5 years.
2. Klamm Park Trail - \$4,000,000.00 - Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas - The funds would be used to create an ADA compliant trail that is 10 ft wide and consists of a sub layer of compacted subgrade, 4 inch aggregate base, and 4 inch concrete surface, meeting trail regulation standards. The trail would be approximately .80 miles long, looping with Klamm Park. Klamm Park is a 30.2 acre park with amenities such as a playground, basketball courts, tennis courts, baseball fields, a shelter and restroom. Adding a walking trail feature to this park was a recommendation for Klamm Park from the 2017 Master Plan Park Assessment. It provides a public park

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access and recreational benefits to the citizens of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS. Trails have been shown to improve quality of life, promote health, and build a sense of community. When communities invest in trails, they are creating outdoor recreation opportunities and help create a sense of pride for the communities. In Wyandotte County specifically, creating more trails allows for opportunities to encourage exercise and other healthy outdoor activities and provide low or no-cost recreation to families with low costs relative to other recreational services. The Master Plan identified that residents ranked trails as a top improvement for their community.

3. 6th St. Bike Blvd. & Heritage Trail Connection - \$1,500,000 - Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas - This project would entail repaving and restriping 6th Street between Central Avenue and Armstrong Avenue, then connecting on to the Riverfront Heritage trailhead at Armstrong Avenue & 4th Street. Likewise, it would include an upgrade to the off-street trail/sidewalk between 3rd and 4th street. It would also allow the Unified Government of Kansas City, KS and Wyandotte County to complete this connection to the Heritage Trail as well as make additional safety and green infrastructure related improvements along the entire stretch of the project. It would include intersection safety improvements to both signalized and unsignalized intersections in order to update outdated infrastructure and provide safe bike/pedestrian connectivity. It provides a public transportation benefit to the citizens of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS. This improvement is in a densely urbanized portion of the City/County. It will connect several nodes of commercial activity with the in between neighborhood of Strawberry Hill that is low-mod and was part of historic redlining. This project should help stabilize the neighborhood and approve the walk and biking safety as well as improve the appearance of the neighborhood by taking a portions of overinfrastructure street through a road diet to become safer for pedestrian uses.
4. Sumner Area Green Corridor Design - \$1,500,000 - Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas - This project would be for engineering and design of the green corridor for redevelopment of the existing street grid in the Sumner neighborhood. The project would include study and design of establishing a green corridor in the Sumner neighborhood for stormwater management utilizing the existing street grid and redevelopment of the vacant neighborhood. This award would be spent on engineering design for redevelopment of the neighborhood with a green corridor to address inland overflow issues that caused many redlined homes to have to be abandoned and ultimately demolished. This project will design green infrastructure to address the inland overflow issues that caused massive disinvestment in this historically redlined neighborhood of Douglas Sumner. By addressing the inland overflow, the UG will be

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able to use an NRSA and its related HUD programs to redevelop this residential neighborhood with hiking trails adjacent to the green corridor, connect Waterway Park, Big Eleven Lake, Elin Forest Park, Heathwood Park to Jersey Creek Park and Trail through these improvements. The improvements will be done in conjunction with the UGs approved WIFIA program to address stormwater issues. The project will also help with the UGs consent degree for combined sewers and related MS4 issues.

Thank you for your consideration of these important requests and for your continued leadership.

My warmest regards,



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress