

## **Bobbie Walthall**

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**From:** Chris Tilden <christilden@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 12, 2018 10:23 AM  
**To:** Bobbie Walthall  
**Subject:** 2019 Recommended Budget - comment to City Commissioners

Dear Mr. Mayor and members of the Lawrence City Commission,

I am writing to provide comment on the City Manager's 2019 Recommended Budget. I recognize that any budget reflects difficult choices made among many competing priorities. I appreciate the City Manager's efforts to reflect the priorities of Lawrence residents in this document, and his efforts to balance important needs including social services, affordable housing, public safety, recreation, and many other key city functions.

I appreciate support for public transit and for basic transportation infrastructure maintenance that are important to our community. I particularly support, and approve of, inclusion of five traffic-calming projects including a bicycle boulevard on 13<sup>th</sup> Street. As someone who has commuted both by car and by bike to work and to other priority destinations, I recognize the potential for Lawrence to be a city with a considerable percentage of commuters who use forms of transportation other than the personal automobile, much higher than is currently the case. More commuters walking, biking and using public transit would confer substantial benefits on the city and all of us who live here including less vehicular congestion, lower street maintenance costs, improved air quality, and increased safety for everyone getting around town.

One element of our active transportation system that is notably missing in the Recommended Budget, however, is dedicated funding for trails. This year's Recommended Budget, as well as the projected Capital Improvement Budget for 2020, including no funding for our city trail system. It is not until 2021 that the City Manager anticipates including a request for any municipal funding for the Lawrence Loop, the recognized "hub" of the Lawrence trail system and a trail long cited as an important priority by former and current elected members of the City Commission as well as thousands of local residents. It takes only a cursory glance at recent ETC surveys of local residents commissioned by the City, or the City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation Master Plan, to recognize the importance we place on our trail system.

Some may write off the importance of trails in light of other critical priorities, but I believe there is much more to our trail system than mere recreation. It is a highly desired amenity that increases quality of life and attracts people of all ages and abilities to our community. I heard a Lawrence resident just the other day remarking on the incredible progress Kansas City has made on its trail system in recent years, contrasting it to our relatively slow and sporadic progress. Unfortunately, we are competing not only against the Boulder's, the Columbia's, and the Portland's of the world for business and an educated workforce and economic development, we are also competing with our neighbors next door – the Kansas City's and even Topeka's -- who are "outpacing" Lawrence in the development of highly desired, outdoor recreational amenities like trails and linear parks. I

urge that sufficient funding be allocated in the 2019 budget to undertake an engineering study to analyze and confirm the actual alignment of the Burroughs Creek to Burcham Park Trail connection of the Lawrence Loop so we are at least in a position next year to compete for grant funding to supplement local investment in this critical and treasured local resource.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Chris Tilden

1121 Williamsburg Ct.

## Bobbie Walthall

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**To:** Tom Markus  
**Subject:** RE: Budget Book Review and Comments

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Michael K. Kelly" <[job4mike6@aol.com](mailto:job4mike6@aol.com)>  
**Date:** June 11, 2018 at 5:59:09 PM CDT  
**To:** "[tmarkus@lawrenceks.org](mailto:tmarkus@lawrenceks.org)" <[tmarkus@lawrenceks.org](mailto:tmarkus@lawrenceks.org)>, "[sboley@lawrenceks.org](mailto:sboley@lawrenceks.org)" <[sboley@lawrenceks.org](mailto:sboley@lawrenceks.org)>  
**Cc:** "[llarsen@lawrenceks.org](mailto:llarsen@lawrenceks.org)" <[llarsen@lawrenceks.org](mailto:llarsen@lawrenceks.org)>, Chuck Soules <[csoules@lawrenceks.org](mailto:csoules@lawrenceks.org)>, Matthew Herbert <[matthewjherbert@gmail.com](mailto:matthewjherbert@gmail.com)>, Jennifer Ananda <[jananda@lawrenceks.org](mailto:jananda@lawrenceks.org)>, Leslie Soden <[lsoden@lawrenceks.org](mailto:lsoden@lawrenceks.org)>  
**Subject:** Budget Book Review and Comments

City Leaders-

Thank you for the details in the Budget Book. Here are some questions that remain in my mind.

Re: page 69. I am surprised that there is no mention of the depressed market for several types of recycled materials due to Chinese import policy restrictions. For example, see <https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2018/04/10/what-depressed-occ-means-for-the-recycling-industry/>

I would expect revenue to decline due the change in the market for recycled materials but I see no mention of that matter here.

Re page 71. There is no explanation of the public good for the license plate recognition system. Will acquisition of this system improve parking fine revenue or result in better detective work by the police department? The benefits projected to be associated cost of \$210,000 need to be explained in more detail. What city surveillance policy, if any, is in place for use of the license plate data?

Re page 73: I see no mention of the \$2.8M Rapid I/I Reduction Program reducing future needs in this utility fund as a public benefit. I would expect to see such explanation even if the impact is outside this budget window due to the large scale expense of the Rapid I/I Reduction Program.

Re slide 84: There is an increase of \$79K to \$603K to \$850K for FY 17-FY18-FY19 but no explanatory information other than "Contractual services" is provided. There are significant changes in the affordable housing effort here but what are they?

Re slide 111: Three unfunded fire FTEs are cited as a critical need per a CFAI report. Further explanation of the term "critical" is needed to explain the lack of funding for this shortfall. If the shortfall does not rise to the dictionary definition of critical then the word should not appear in budget presentations. Does our FD risk lack of accreditation or will our fire insurance rates rise due to not funding these supervisory-level firefighter positions? What would the impact of a CFAI accreditation failure for lack of filling these positions be? Absent a compelling justification, not provided here, for more supervisory personnel, I urge city leaders to avoid such costs in the FD.

Re slide 126: Funding of \$340K for Two Percent for Art through debt is not advisable. The city has many higher priority unmet needs such as Safe Routes for School gaps that could use such funding. Also the

\$900K in 2022 for “Portable Radios” needs to be more fully explained and such explanation should explain the non-overlap or connection with with the 2021 \$600K mobile radios. The relationship of these radio purchases need to be fully explained. Could city-issued cell phones replace some of these mobile radio needs at a lower cost?

Thank you,

Michael Kelly

## Bobbie Walthall

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**From:** Sarah Hill-Nelson <shn@bowersockpower.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 11, 2018 6:11 PM  
**To:** Bobbie Walthall  
**Subject:** Lawrence Loop

Hi Bobbie,

It is Sarah Hill-Nelson writing.

I would like to add my support for including completion of the Lawrence Loop as a priority for the 2019 budget and the Capital Improvement Plan.

I understand that writing you is the proper way to have my comment appended to the City Packet.

Please let me know if this is not the case.

Thanks so much.

Sincerely,

Sarah

The Bowersock Mills and Power Company

P.O. Box 66

500 South Powerhouse Road

Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Office/Mobile: 785-766-0884

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[www.bowersockpower.com](http://www.bowersockpower.com)

"Producing clean, renewable hydropower since 1874."



## **Bobbie Walthall**

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**From:** Marilyn Hull <mhull1011@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 11, 2018 12:05 PM  
**To:** Bobbie Walthall  
**Subject:** 2019 Funding for Completing Part of the Lawrence Loop Trail

Mayor Boley and commissioners:

I urge you to include at least \$300,000 in funding for completing the Lawrence Loop Trail in your 2019 budget. The trail serves thousands of people who want a safe place to walk, run, ride a bike or use an assistive device for daily transportation and recreation. Two of the three current trail gaps are in lower income neighborhoods, where the need for affordable transportation is greatest.

Citizens have expressed through numerous city processes that completing the Loop should be a high priority because of its health, transportation, economic and environmental benefits.

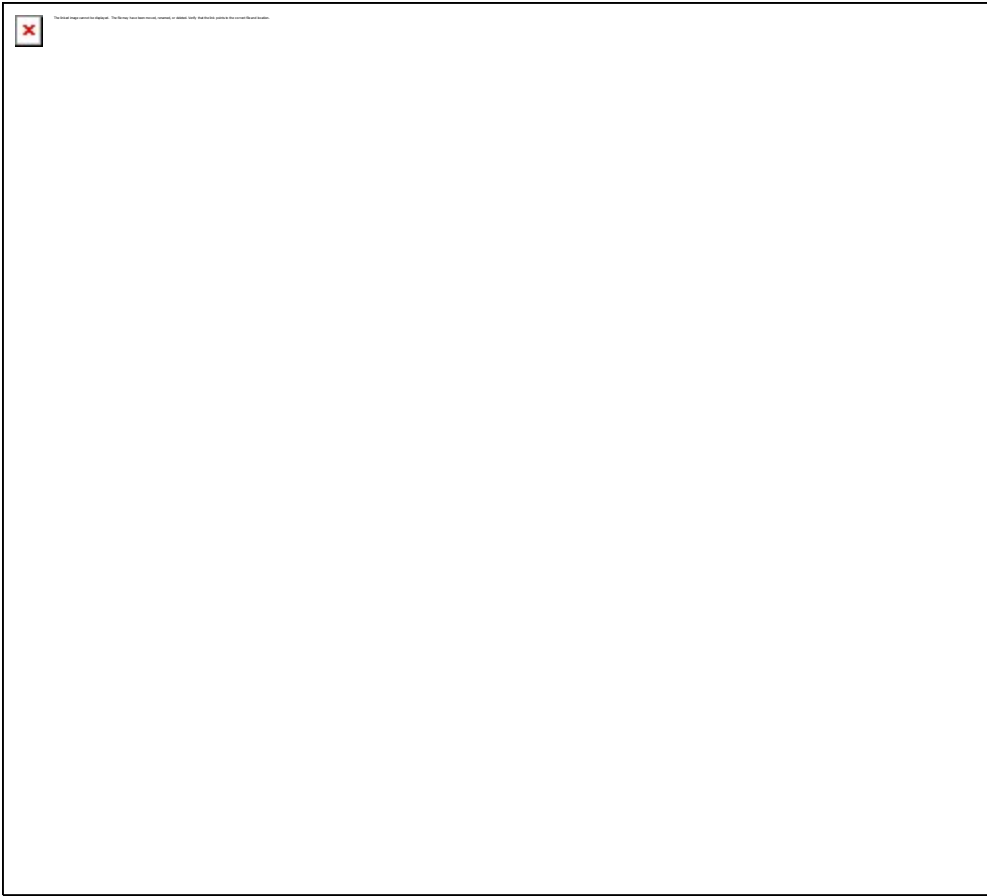
And yet zero dollars have been allocated to constructing new segments of this trail or any trail in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

The Lawrence Loop meets four Critical Success Factors stated in your strategic plan. It creates safe, healthy, welcoming neighborhoods. It is innovative infrastructure that supports sustainability. It supports economic growth through tourism. And it taps into a funding partnership with Friends of Lawrence Area Trails, which is committed to raising private funding to help the Loop.

At least \$300,000 a year would allow the City and Friends of Lawrence Area Trails to make incremental progress every year on closing the three remaining gaps in the Lawrence Loop.

Here's a map showing the existing gaps in the trail. While each gap presents challenges, every one of them can be met with commitment and funding.

Please act now to support this critical piece of city infrastructure that serves so many and has the potential to serve many more.



## **Bobbie Walthall**

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**From:** Suzan Hampton <suzanhampton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 11, 2018 2:06 AM  
**To:** Bobbie Walthall  
**Cc:** Suzan Hampton  
**Subject:** Funding for Lawrence Loop

Hi Bobbie,

I'm emailing to encourage the Commission to build funding into the budget annually to complete the Lawrence Loop.

Of the 22-mile paved shared-use path, just four miles are left to complete the entire project: a continuous, safe, and ADA-accessible paved path that will serve as the backbone to connect up spur trails, on-street bike lanes, and other active transportation infrastructure city-wide.

Many studies show that short-listed "must-have's" for relocating active retirees and Millennials include walkable neighborhoods, greenways and open space, and bike trails.

Cities in direct competition with Lawrence for these new residents who will buy homes, eat out and shop locally, start companies and create jobs, and pay local taxes include Iowa City, IA, Columbia, MO, and Fayetteville/Bentonville, AR. All three of these have robust trail and open space systems, with more actively in development. Lawrence is falling behind.

The 2016 Ped-Bike Task Force's recommendations stated that the city's top bikeway priority should be completion of the Loop, yet no funding has been allocated for Loop construction in 2018, 2019, or 2020.

In the 2015 ETC citizen survey, Lawrence residents stated that their top priority for Lawrence Parks and Recreation was adding trails.

And finally, finishing the Loop corresponds with four of the strategic plan's stated Critical Success Factors: safe, healthy, welcoming neighborhoods; innovative infrastructure; collaborative partnerships; and economic growth.

The CIP designates the Loop as a Parks and Rec project but in my opinion, this view is short-sighted and is standing in the way of its completion. In many other cities, bike trails/active transportation are a critical component of transportation infrastructure, economic development, and public health planning, in addition to (or instead of) Parks and Recreation. Thus money invested in these systems yields deep benefits across neighborhoods, constituents, public needs, and strategic planning objectives.

Parks and Rec funding constitutes 7% of the budget, so I encourage you to analyze the entire CIP for savings that will empower all of us working together-the City, advocacy groups, and a very dedicated, enthusiastic and large group of citizen trail supporters-to complete these last four miles of the Loop.

Thanks you for your service and your support of active transportation and the Lawrence Loop!

Suzan Hampton, LEED AP bd+c  
Urban | Landscape Designer  
Friends of Lawrence Area Trails Co-founder