

# CITY COUNCIL INITIATIVE: **Improving Topeka's Roads**



We cannot keep doing things the same way and expect our road problems to resolve itself. We must take bold steps to address crumbling infrastructure. We also cannot keep asking the same taxpayers to fund these programs with increases in sales and property tax or with cuts in social services. We must exhaust every option before we take money from quality of life programs and increase taxes. As a member of the City Council, I will work on the following initiatives:

## DESIGN BUILD

Design Build method of construction should be considered for road construction and repair projects in Topeka.

Design build is a method of project delivery in which one entity - the design-build team - works under a single contract for services. Instead of engineers designing a project then hiring a contractor, the two work hand-in-hand on every step. This approach means analysis, design, contracts and construction are all done in cooperation at the same time.

This method leads to faster delivery, cost savings, better quality, singular responsibility, decreased administrative burden, reduced risk, reduced litigation claims, reduced delays, and better coordination among all projects in the city.

Streamlining project delivery through a single build program transforms the relationship between designers and builders into an alliance, which fosters teamwork and collaboration. It ensure everyone is united from the onset of the project.



## COMPETTIVE BIDDING/ MANAGED COMPETITION

Instead of simply accepting outside bids for projects, this process has city departments also bidding for projects. This creates competition and benchmarks between the public and private sector, improving quality and efficiency.

This process determines if City services can be provided more economically, while maintaining service quality and protecting the public interest. Government departments operating in a competitive environment can reduce costs and increase efficiencies.

This method changes “the way it has always been done”; gives city employees a fair chance at opportunities; helps employees and city management work closer together; private firms will submit better bids; and it supports more opportunities for city staff.

It has been used successfully in other cities across the country. The policy would be applied to road projects and perhaps other services, but not core public safety services provided by police officers, firefighters, lifeguards, etc.

## OTHER ROAD IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES:

- Improve Public Transportation
- Improved incentives/disincentives for contractors
- Encourage/Promote carpools
- Public/Private partnerships on outlet roads
- Comprehensive Program Evaluation
- Contractor Responsibility/Warranty Review
- Efficiency Evaluations
- Road Material Review/Evaluation
- Federal & State Support
- Creative Revenue Resources