



Governing Body Chambers 214 SE 8th  
Street, 2nd Floor, Topeka, Kansas,  
666603  
<https://www.topeka.org>

## Governing Body Agenda

June 3, 2025  
5:00 PM

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### JOINT CITY-COUNTY MEETING

Shawnee County Commissioners:  
Bill Riphahn District No. 1  
Kevin Cook District No. 2  
Aaron Mays District No. 3

Mayor: Michael A. Padilla

#### Councilmembers

Karen A. Hiller	District No. 1	Marcus D.L. Miller	District No. 6
Christina Valdivia-Alcala	District No. 2	Neil Dobler	District No. 7
Sylvia E. Ortiz	District No. 3	Spencer Duncan	District No. 8
David Banks	District No. 4	Michelle Hoferer	District No. 9
Brett D. Kell	District No. 5		

City Manager: Dr. Robert M. Perez

**Addressing the Joint City-County Body:** Public comment for the meeting will be available via Zoom or in-person. Individuals must contact the City Clerk's Office at 785-368-3940 or via email at [cclerk@topeka.org](mailto:cclerk@topeka.org) by no later than 4:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting, after which the City Clerk's Office will provide Zoom link information and protocols prior to the meeting. View the meeting online at <https://www.topeka.org/communications/live-stream/> or at <https://www.facebook.com/cityoftopeka/>.

Written public comment may also be considered to the extent it is personally submitted at the meeting or to the City Clerk's Office located at 215 SE 7th Street, Room 166, Topeka, Kansas, 66603 or via email at [cclerk@topeka.org](mailto:cclerk@topeka.org) on or before the date of the meeting for attachment to the meeting minutes.

If you need any accommodations for the meeting, please contact the City ADA Coordinator at 785-368-4470. Kansas Relay Service at 800-766-3777. Please provide a 48 Hour Notice if possible.

Agendas are available by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday in the City Clerk's Office, 215 SE 7th Street, Room 166, Topeka, Kansas, 66603 or on the City's website at <https://www.topeka.org>.

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**CALL TO ORDER:**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**1. ROLL CALL:**

**2. NON-ACTION ITEMS:**

**A. Presentation - Topeka Riverfront Development**

*(The Riverfront Advisory Council Taskforce will brief the City of Topeka Governing Body and Shawnee County Commission on the concept of Riverfront Development and the Vision for Phase I of the Project.)*

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Public comment for the meeting will be available via Zoom or in-person. Individuals must contact the City Clerk's Office at 785-368-3940 or via email at [cclerk@topeka.org](mailto:cclerk@topeka.org) by no later than 4:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting, after which the City Clerk's Office will provide Zoom link information and protocols prior to the meeting. Written public comment may also be considered to the extent it is personally submitted at the meeting or to the City Clerk's Office located at 215 SE 7th Street, Room 166, Topeka, Kansas, 66603 or via email at [cclerk@topeka.org](mailto:cclerk@topeka.org) on or before the date of the meeting for attachment to the meeting minutes. View the meeting online at <https://www.topeka.org/communications/live-stream/> or at <https://www.facebook.com/cityoftopeka/>.

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**5. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**6. ADJOURNMENT:**



City of Topeka  
Council Action Form  
Council Chambers  
214 SE 8th Street  
Topeka, Kansas 66603  
[www.topeka.org](http://www.topeka.org)  
June 3, 2025

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**DATE:** June 3, 2025  
**CONTACT PERSON:** John Hunter, Riverfront Advisory Council Taskforce Chair and Kevin Holland, Chair-Elect  
**DOCUMENT #:**  
**SECOND PARTY/SUBJECT:** Riverfront Development Concept and Phase 1 Project Vision  
**PROJECT #:**  
**CATEGORY/SUBCATEGORY**  
**CIP PROJECT:** No  
**ACTION OF COUNCIL:**  
**JOURNAL #:**  
**PAGE #:**

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**DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:**

*(The Riverfront Advisory Council Taskforce will brief the City of Topeka Governing Body and Shawnee County Commission on the concept of Riverfront Development and the Vision for Phase I of the Project.)*

**VOTING REQUIREMENTS:**

Discussion only.

**POLICY ISSUE:**

The Riverfront Authority will brief the City of Topeka Governing Body and Shawnee County Commission on the Riverfront Development Concept and the Vision for Phase I of the Project.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff is making no recommendation.

**BACKGROUND:**

City Manager Dr. Robert M. Perez, has called a Special Joint City-County Meeting for the Riverfront Advisory Council Taskforce to brief the Governing Body and Shawnee County Commissioners on the Riverfront Development Concept and the Vision for Phase I of the Project.

**BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

Not applicable.

**SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

Not applicable.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**Description**

Riverfront Development Presentation



Greg Schwerdt, Chair  
Kevin Holland, Chair-Elect  
John Hunter, Taskforce Chair



# STRUCTURE/TASKFORCE



## RIVERFRONT STRUCTURE

**Topeka/Shawnee County  
Riverfront Authority**

**Riverfront Advisory Council**

Housed within the Greater Topeka Partnership

**Riverfront Advisory Council  
Executive Committee**

**RAC Subcommittee**

Phase 3 efforts.

**RAC Taskforce**

Phase 1 efforts.

## RIVERFRONT ADVISORY COUNCIL TASKFORCE

John Hunter, Chair,  
Dr. Robert Perez, City Manager,  
Bill Riphahn, County Commissioner,  
Craig Heideman, Kaw Valley Bank,  
Jennifer Woerner, Dirty Girls Adventures,  
Dawn Buehler, Riverkeepers & Friends of the Kaw,  
Pedro Concepcion, NOTO Arts and  
Entertainment District,  
Eric Purcell, Clayton Wealth Partners,  
Craig Cook, Fidelity Bank,  
Kevin Holland, CFS Engineering

## Riverfront Advisory Council Support

Kevin Holland, RAC Board Chair-Elect CFS Engineering  
Greg Schwerdt, RAC Chair, Schwerdt Design Group  
Michelle Stubblefield, Greater Topeka Partnership



# WHAT THIS VISION MEANS FOR TOPEKA



## COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Access to Recreation
- Strengthening Community Ties

## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

- Sustainability Focus

## ECONOMIC GROWTH

- Job Creation
- Boosting Tourism and Business Revenue



# FROM VISION TO REALITY



Our vision for a 21st Century Riverfront is to enhance Topeka's quality of life, drive economic development, and foster a deeper connection between the city and its river. It's about creating shared spaces that bring people together across generations.

The primary phases toward full implementation include:

**PHASE 1: Brings to life opportunities to immediately activate the river for the community as work continues toward the long-term goal of a fully developed riverfront.**

**PHASE 2: Shawnee County Parks & Recreation oversight and management from Union Station to Curtis Road.**

**PHASE 3: A full Implementation plan of Riverfront development prior to completion of Polk Quincy Viaduct.**



# PHASE 1 - PROJECT COMPONENTS



By developing vibrant public spaces in Phase 1 we're paving the way for local businesses, tourism, and long-term job growth.

**STEEL REMOVAL** - Granted Emergency Action by Corps of Engineers to advance efforts forward. Cost estimates, coordination, and requirements being determined.

**BOAT RAMP** - Setup, planning and funding needs being developed toward coordination with various local, state, and federal entities toward development - Strong partnership with Friends of the Kaw.

**PARKING/TURNAROUND** - Research to determine size, cost and planning considerations to address parking is underway.

**TRAIL CONNECTIVITY** - Generating support to build trails and connect to the current trail system.

**BUILDING ACQUISITION** - In discussions with City and County to repurpose Office Building (on Curtis) for education, meeting, storage space, and kayaks and bike rental.

**FINANCIAL SETUP** - The funding structure is being established through the Greater Topeka Foundation to manage internal, direct, and indirect funding opportunities.

**BEAUTIFICATION** - Overall landscaping and beautification of the area into a park-like environment.

# PHASE 1- COMMITMENT



## FUNDING & COLLABORATION

Current estimates for Phase 1 Project Cost : \$1,300,000.00

The Taskforce requests \$400,000 over a two-year period from both the City of Topeka and Shawnee County. The Riverfront Advisory Council will commit to raising or assist in raising additional amounts if needed to complete Phase 1 project goals.

The City/County would have direct control of their project support funds.

1. The City/County will select a component of the project and complete it using standard in-house project process. They would control the time, process and payment.
2. The City/County may agree to hire an outside contractor to complete a component of the project and pay the contractor directly.
3. The Taskforce, using the money they raised, will pay a contractor for the work on a component of the project.

Of the funds requested, the Riverfront Advisory Council Taskforce requests the transfer of \$25,000 from the City/County to the account at Kaw Valley bank to cover immediate cost of required engineering associated with the permit process for the boat ramp, access road and turnaround.

We request approval of this transfer as soon as possible given the time related to the boat ramp permit approval process.

Once completed, it is intended to have the property and all components of the project be transferred to the County as intended by the original Parks Consolidation Plan.

# PHASE 1- TIMELINE



**TO COMPLETE  
PHASE 1 PROJECTS**

**2 YEARS**







**THANK YOU!**





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DATE: June 3, 2025  
CONTACT PERSON: DOCUMENT #:  
SECOND PARTY/SUBJECT: Public Comment PROJECT #:  
Protocol  
CATEGORY/SUBCATEGORY  
CIP PROJECT: No  
ACTION OF COUNCIL: JOURNAL #:  
PAGE #:

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**DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:**

PUBLIC COMMENT PROTOCOL

**VOTING REQUIREMENTS:**

**POLICY ISSUE:**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

**BACKGROUND:**

**Governing Body Rule 5.5**

(c) **Public Comment on a specific agenda item:** Comments from members of the public concerning a specific agenda item will be heard at the time the item is considered. Persons will be limited to addressing the governing body one (1) time on a particular matter unless otherwise allowed by a vote of six (6) or more members of the governing body.

(d) **General public comment:** Requests by members of the public to speak during the public comment portion of a regular governing body meeting will be placed on the agenda on a "first-come, first-served" basis. The request should state the name of the individual(s) desiring to be heard. Each such individual shall be limited to addressing the governing body one (1) time and his or her comments shall be limited to topics directly relevant to business of the governing body; provided however, that comments pertaining to personnel and litigation matters shall not be allowed.

**Procedures for Addressing the Governing Body**

In accordance with Governing Body Rules 5.6 and 5.7, the following protocols for public comment apply:



- Each person shall state his or her name and city of residence in an audible tone for the record.
- All remarks shall be addressed to the Governing Body as a whole -- not to any individual member.
- In order to provide additional time for as many individuals as possible to address the Governing Body, each individual signed up to speak will need to complete his or her comments within four minutes.

The following behavior will not be tolerated from any speaker:

- Uttering fighting words
- Slander
- Speeches invasive of the privacy of individuals (no mention of names) Unreasonably Loud Speech
- Repetitious Speech or Debate
- Speeches so disruptive of proceedings that the legislative process is substantially interrupted

Any speaker who engages in this type of behavior will be warned once by the presiding office (Mayor). If the behavior continues, the speaker will be ordered to cease his or her behavior. If the speaker persists in interfering with the ability of the Governing Body to carry out its function, he or she will be removed from the City Council Chambers or Zoom meeting room.

Members of the public, Governing Body and staff are expected to treat one another with respect at all times.

#### Zoom Meeting Protocol

- Make sure your Zoom name, email and/or phone number matches what was submitted to the City Clerk when you signed up for public comment. Any misnamed or unauthorized users will not be admitted to Zoom.
- Please keep your mic muted and your camera off until you are called by the Mayor to give your comment.
- If you are cut off during your comment time due to an internet connection or technical issue, you will need to submit your comments in writing to the City Clerk at [atcclerk@topeka.org](mailto:atcclerk@topeka.org) or 215 SE 7th Street, Room 012B, Topeka, KS 66603 for attachment to the minutes.
- If you break any of the public comment rules, you will receive one warning from the Mayor. If you continue any prohibited behavior, you will be removed from the Zoom meeting room and will not be allowed to rejoin.
- Public comment is limited to four minutes. You may receive an extension at the discretion of the Governing Body. The timer will be visible to you in the 'City of Topeka Admin' window on the Zoom app. Call-in users will hear one beep when a minute is remaining and then another beep when time has expired.
- Please do not share the Zoom login information with anyone. Any unauthorized users will not be admitted to the Zoom meeting room.

#### **BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

#### **SOURCE OF FUNDING:**