



THIS IS EL DORADO

Transportation Master Plan underway by JEO Consulting

In 2022, the City recognized the need for a comprehensive Transportation Master Plan to address current and future needs of roadways, industrial development and pedestrian infrastructure.

The goal of the plan is to facilitate the safe and efficient movement of traffic, as well as improving other modes of transportation in El Dorado. The plan will look at enhancing mobility, improving safety, supporting economic development and being sustainable.

In January of this year, the City moved forward with Requests for Qualifications to select a consultant to complete the master plan.

In July, the City Commission approved entering into an agreement with JEO Consulting for \$194,420. They estimate it will take 12 months to complete the plan.

JEO Consulting kicked off the project and data collection in August, making a presentation of its progress to the Planning Commission in October and a presentation to the City Commission in November. During the November work session, JEO asked the Commission for input on goals for the plan in regard to traffic movement and provided a plan for the project schedule. They also began seeking stakeholder input in November.

The next step will be to develop performance measures, alternative evaluations, project recommendations and funding opportunities.

Remaining Timeline:

- December-February - data analysis and forecasting
- January-March - public/stakeholder engagement
- March - May - draft plan development
- July 2024 - final plan presentation and approval



What's Happening in El Dorado

- **Jan. 1** - City Offices Closed for New Year's
Monday trash collected on Wednesday of that week
- **Jan. 2 & 16** - City Commission Meetings
- **Jan. 3** - Chamber Chat
- **Jan. 8** - Community Potluck @ Senior Center
- **Jan. 11** - Thursday Speaker Series @ Kansas Oil Museum
- **Jan. 15** - City Offices Closed for MLK Day
Monday trash collected on Wednesday of that week
- **Jan. 16** - Coutts Brown Bag Program
- **Jan. 16** - Library Book Club
- **Jan. 19-21** - Scrapbook Retreat @ Kansas Oil Museum
- **Jan. 31** - Coutts Caterpillars Preschool Program

City of El Dorado receives Safe Streets for All grant

Transportation safety is always a priority for the City of El Dorado, whether it's driving, walking or biking. A Safe Streets and Roads for All grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation will help the City continue to improve safety throughout the community.

The City received notice from Congressman Ron Estes' office of the \$160,000 grant. This will be used for a road safety audit to develop a new City of El Dorado Transportation Safety Action Plan, which will be part of the previously authorized Transportation Master Plan.

"This will help us identify places that have safety issues in the transportation network," explained City Engineer Scott Rickard. "From there, we will come up with a plan to remediate those issues."

"This critical assistance enables us to engage stakeholders, implement inclusive processes and work toward our goal of zero roadway fatalities and reduced serious injuries," said City Manager David Dillner.

The grant will hopefully open other opportunities for federal or state grant dollars. "This will give us a guiding document to apply for additional grant funds for building out the improvements," Rickard said. "It also will aid in updating the Capital Improvement Plan."

El Dorado is one of only seven cities in Kansas who received this grant. In addition to the federal grant of \$160,000, the Kansas Department of Transportation is funding the matching 20 percent so there is no cost to the City.

"No one can better pinpoint a community's safety needs than the people who live and work there," said Gov. Laura Kelly. "I commend these local governments for leveraging federal and state funding to create safety plans for their city streets and county roads."

2023 General Election Results



One Cent Sales Tax –

Yes - 77.18% of the vote (1,299 votes)
 No - 22.82% of the vote (384 votes)



Mayor –

Bill Young - unopposed, receiving 1,506 votes



City Commission Position 2 –

Syndee Scribner - 53.03% of the vote (849 votes)
 Gregg Lewis - 46.97% of the vote (752 votes)



City Commission Position 4 –

Kendra Wilkinson - unopposed, receiving 1,454 votes

Election results: Sales tax continues; new commissioner elected

El Dorado’s one-cent sales tax will continue following the November election where it was passed by 77 percent of the vote.

The sales tax, which has been in effect since 1989, will see a couple of changes with the approval of the continuation on Oct. 1, 2024. This ballot question made the tax continuous, so it will not be on the ballot every five years as it has in the past, unless a change is being proposed to it.

In addition, the updated sales tax will allocate an additional \$100,000 for annual street rehabilitation, increasing from the current \$600,000 up to \$700,000. The portion allotted for economic development was removed. The remainder of the tax allotment will not change, including \$1,650,000 to property tax reduction and the remaining balance for capital projects, which will be determined by the City Commission.

Also on the ballot in November was the mayor’s seat, as well as two commission seats.

Mayor Bill Young was re-elected as mayor for another two-year term and Kendra Wilkinson was re-elected to a four-year term as City Commissioner. In the race for City Commission Position 2, Syndee Scribner beat out incumbent Gregg Lewis, to win that four-year term.

The new commission took office during the Dec. 4 Commission meeting.



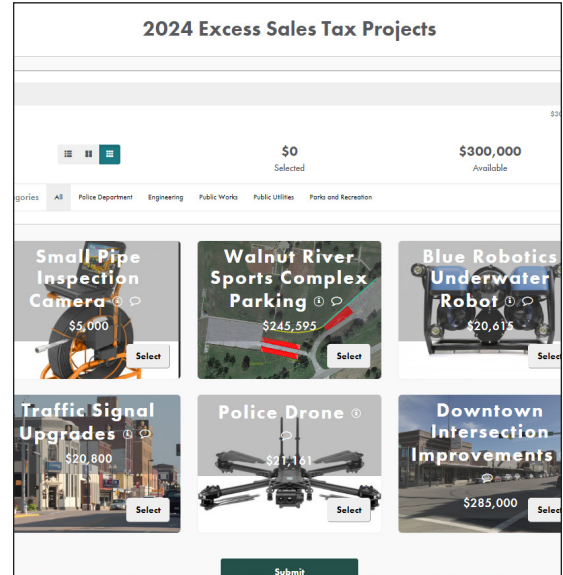
The City’s new trash schedule means fewer changes for customers. During a holiday week, only those residents whose trash day falls on the holiday will change to Wednesday of that week. All other routes will run as normal.

New website seeks citizen input on sales tax projects

Each year, projects are proposed by city staff on how to use the funds available for special projects from El Dorado’s one-cent sales tax.

The City Commission appoints an Excess Sales Tax Committee, which hears those suggested projects and makes a recommendation to the Commission on which projects they believe are best to be completed that year. Then the Commission makes a decision on which projects to move forward with depending on the amount of funds available.

This year, the public has an opportunity to give their input on which projects they would like to see completed.



The City has a new website, Balancing Act, that allows citizen input. This year’s projects include: traffic signal upgrades, a small pipe inspection camera, Walnut River Sports Complex parking, downtown intersection improvements, a Blue Robotics underwater robot, and a police drone.

The link to this will be available at www.eldoks.com and on our social media. With this, you can learn more about each project, how much it will cost and how much is available to fund the projects. Then you can select what you feel is most important with the tax dollars available.

2024 animal licenses begin January 1

All dogs and cats are required to be licensed and immunized with a rabies vaccination, which provides protection throughout the licensing period, upon reaching 4 months of age. The licensing period begins January 1 and lasts for one year.

Application for a license may be made 30 days before and not more than 60 days after the beginning of the licensing period. A penalty of \$2 per month is charged for each month after March 1 for late licensing.

The licensing fees are as follows: Each Sterile Animal: \$5; Each Non-Sterile Animal: \$40; Replacement Tag: \$5. Verification of sterilization by a licensed veterinarian is required.

Licenses can be purchased at your vet, or by cash or check at the Animal Shelter or City Hall.