

**Report to Congress for Future Water Resources Development (WRRDA 7001) Submission
Package**

Proposal Name: Kansas River Weir

Submission Date: 08/10/2017

Proposal ID Number: 06009a89-0f00-4b0b-849a-915e3b32ea0a

Purpose of Proposal: Proposed Project Modification The City of Topeka has a unique opportunity to include in the recently reconstructed levee system a low-level dam, or weir, that would advance the opportunity for investment and development of the City's waterfront by restoring the river's aquatic ecosystem while providing public recreation activities, such as fishing, kayaking/canoeing, and swimming. The construction of the weir has objective of restoring degraded ecosystem structure, function, and dynamic processes to a less degraded, more natural condition. By remediating the loss of the natural environment in and along the river due to construction of the Federal levee system, the weir will be contributing to resiliency and sustainability by creating a constant body of water that will attract development and public recreation to river in downtown Topeka. The Kansas River Concepts Study (2007), funded by the City and USACE, found that the foremost consideration that needs to be given to any riverfront development is the impact to the existing flood control infrastructure. The construction of a weir and enabling public access to the river for recreational use will adversely impact the adjacent levee systems and will require the modification to the existing levee systems. In summary, The City of Topeka and the Topeka Riverfront Authority believes that modifications to the levee systems by the construction of a weir will result in (1) the remediation of prior environmental damage by previous Federal action in constructing the original levee systems, (2) provide public recreational opportunities along the Kansas River which have not existed before, and (3) the combined environmental and recreational enhancement will significantly advance the opportunity for investment and development.

1. Administrative Details

Proposal Name: Kansas River Weir

by Agency: The City of Topeka, Kansas

Locations: KS

Date Submitted: 08/10/2017

Confirmation Number: 06009a89-0f00-4b0b-849a-915e3b32ea0a

Supporting Documents

| File Name | Date Uploaded |
|---|----------------------|
| Mayoral Letter USACE 2016.pdf | 08/10/2017 |
| Kansas River Weir Letter - Governor.pdf | 08/10/2017 |
| Map.pdf | 08/10/2017 |
| 071117 CM letter USACE.pdf | 08/10/2017 |

2. Provide the name of the primary sponsor and all non-Federal interests that have contributed or are expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.

| Sponsor | Letter of Support |
|-----------------------------|--|
| City of Topeka, KS(Primary) | <p>In 2007, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted a feasibility study (Topeka Riverfront Kansas River Concepts Study: W912DQ-04-D-00) with the assistance of the Army Corps of Engineers' consultant engineers Burns and Mc Donnell. The study was jointly funded by USACE and the City of Topeka, to evaluate the impact of a weir on the Kansas River in downtown Topeka. The Study determined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pool of water can be achieved between the Topeka Blvd Bridge and the Kansas Ave. Bridge. • Changes can be made to the interior of the levee <p>Having already conducted a feasibility study, we request the Corps place the weir in its Design and Implementation Stage of the North Topeka Levee Unit work plan, which provides needed flood relief. We request the assistance of the Corps in construction of the weir under Small Flood Control Projects (Section 205 of the 1948 Flood Control Act, as amended), Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program (Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, as amended), and Project Modification for Improvements to the Environment (Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended) to restore the river's environmental integrity while reducing the threat of flooding in downtown Topeka. We understand our obligation as the local sponsor, under these Sections described above, is 35 percent of the project implementation costs. We intend to pursue budgetary actions so that funds will be available to meet our cost sharing requirements at the time needed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.</p> |

3. State if this proposal is for a feasibility study, a modification to an authorized USACE feasibility study or a modification to an authorized USACE project. If it is a proposal for a modification, provide the authorized water resources development feasibility study or project name.

[x] Modification to an Authorized USACE Project : Topeka Flood Risk Management Project, Water Resources Reform Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-121)

4. Clearly articulate the specific project purpose(s) of the proposed study or modification. Demonstrate that the proposal is related to USACE mission and authorities and specifically address why additional or new authorization is needed.

Proposed Project Modification The City of Topeka has a unique opportunity to include in the recently reconstructed levee system a low-level dam, or weir, that would advance the opportunity for investment and development of the City's waterfront by restoring the river's aquatic ecosystem while providing public recreation activities, such as fishing, kayaking/canoeing, and swimming. The construction of the weir has objective of restoring degraded ecosystem structure, function, and dynamic processes to a less degraded, more natural condition. By remediating the loss of the natural environment in and along the river due to construction of the Federal levee system, the weir will be contributing to resiliency and sustainability by creating a constant body of water that will attract development and public recreation to river in downtown Topeka. The Kansas River Concepts Study (2007), funded by the City and USACE, found that the foremost consideration that needs to be given to any riverfront development is the impact to the existing flood control infrastructure. The construction of a weir and enabling public access to the river for recreational use will adversely impact the adjacent levee systems and will require the modification to the existing levee systems. In summary, The City of Topeka and the Topeka Riverfront Authority believes that modifications to the levee systems by the construction of a weir will result in (1) the remediation of prior environmental damage by previous Federal action in constructing the original levee systems, (2) provide public recreational opportunities along the Kansas River which have not existed before, and (3) the combined environmental and recreational enhancement will significantly advance the opportunity for investment and development.

5. To the extent practicable, provide an estimate of the total cost, and the Federal and non-Federal share of those costs, of the proposed study and, separately, an estimate of the cost of construction or modification.

| | Federal | Non-Federal | Total |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Study | \$4,650,000 | \$2,450,000 | \$7,100,000 |
| Construction | \$4,000,000 | \$3,000,000 | \$7,000,000 |

Explanation (if necessary)

Total cost: \$7,100,000 Federal (65%): \$4,550,000 Non-Federal (35%): \$2,450,000 Proposed study: \$100,000 Construction of the weir: \$4,000,000 Modification/public access to river through levee system: \$3,000,000

6. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.

The revitalization of downtown, including the creation of a riverfront park area, will help improve the quality of life for the citizens of Topeka. Park areas create recreational opportunities and encourage places for families to visit. There are plans for both commercial areas and an arts and entertainment district. These will help bring in more revenue for the city which can be returned to the citizens through better public services. The development of a normal pool will help create a riverfront area to lure residents downtown and help revitalize an important part of Topeka. In 2015, the Topeka-Shawnee County Riverfront Authority, jointly with leadership of the Great Overland Station, approached the City and County about an opportunity to have the National Park Service (NPS) lead a design charrette that would further refine the park plans, based on the Oregon Trail historic theme. The NPS had particular interest in promoting the site for an interpretive park commemorating the Oregon Trail which passed through the land in front of the Great Overland Station as early as 1849 aided by the Pappan brothers' ferry service. This ferry service and Oregon Trail are the impetus behind the founding of Topeka. The NPS came to Topeka in August, 2016 and undertook a design charrette that was open to the public. The efforts to create a historic destination in this area are ongoing and do hold economic development potential for the community as a whole. The Topeka Levee project, in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, protects over a billion dollars of property. Any project that can enhance these efforts will provide monetary and non-monetary value for Topeka.

7. Does local support exist? If ‘Yes’, describe the local support for the proposal.

Yes

Local Support Description

Topeka wants to create an improved downtown district near the Kansas River between the Kansas Avenue and Topeka Avenue Bridges. To do this, the City hopes to create a riverfront area surrounded by parks, trails, & commercial areas. The best way to achieve this riverfront area is to install a low head dam or temporary gate structure. This area lies on the Kansas River between the Kansas and Topeka bridges. On the south side of the river, redevelopment is poised for the area extending to 3rd Street while redevelopment is expected to extend to Morse Street north of the River. This locale is already experiencing some revitalization with the completion of the Great Overland Station and the planned Veterans Park. In addition, the city hopes to create more attractive commercial development and make the area more people friendly by creating parks and pedestrian walkways. Spurred by an \$8 million public/private partnership, downtown revitalization is booming, with new commercial properties opening on a regular basis. Local support for the project is tremendous and there is an optimistic spirit about the continued development of the area. Civic and government leaders are vocally supportive of the riverfront development and serve on the Riverfront Development Authority. Topeka-Shawnee County Riverfront Authority was created by a 2006 Act of the Kansas State Legislature whose mandate is to plan, develop, improve and manage riverfront parks and economic development programs along the Kansas River corridor, said Authority being a governmental entity of which City & County are co-equal participants. The City of Topeka Governing Body has placed this project in the 10-year CIP for the City as well, demonstrating a current and future support of the project. Additionally, a recent edition of the Topeka Capital-Journal included an article about the importance of “quality of place” and “economic development” and specifically related those issues to the ongoing riverfront development.

8. Does the primary sponsor named in (2.) above have the financial ability to provide for the required cost share?

Yes

Additional Proposal Information

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Mayoral Letter USACE 2016.pdf



CITY OF TOPEKA

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
City Hall, 215 SE 7th St., Suite 350
Topeka, KS 66603-3914

March 22, 2016

Colonel Andrew Sexton
Commander and District Engineer
Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kansas City District
ATTN: Planning Division
601 E 12th St. Ste. 700
Kansas City, MO 64106

Dear Colonel Sexton:

In 2007, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted a feasibility study (Topeka Riverfront Kansas River Concepts Study: W912DQ-04-D-00) with the assistance of the Army Corps of Engineers' consultant engineers Burns and McDonnell. The study was jointly funded by USACE and the City of Topeka, to evaluate the impact of a weir on the Kansas River in downtown Topeka. The Study determined:

- A pool of water can be achieved between the Topeka Blvd Bridge and the Kansas Ave. Bridge.
- Changes can be made to the interior of the levee

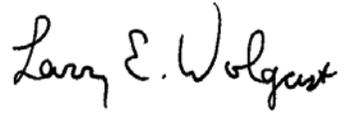
Having already conducted a feasibility study, we request the Corps place the weir in its Design and Implementation Stage of the North Topeka Levee Unit work plan, which provides needed flood relief. We request the assistance of the Corps in construction of the weir under Small Flood Control Projects (Section 205 of the 1948 Flood Control Act, as amended), Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program (Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, as amended), and Project Modification for Improvements to the Environment (Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended) to restore the river's environmental integrity while reducing the threat of flooding in downtown Topeka.

We understand our obligation as the local sponsor, under these Sections described above, is 35 percent of the project implementation costs. We intend to pursue budgetary actions so that funds will be available to meet our cost sharing requirements at the time needed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The City of Topeka, Kansas has designated Mr. Doug Gerber, Assistant City Manager as the point of contact for this project (785) 368-3725.

Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry E. Wolgast". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "L".

Larry E. Wolgast,
Mayor City of Topeka

Primary Sponsor Letter of Support

(As uploaded)

Kansas River Weir Letter - Governor.pdf

July 6, 2017

Mr. James C. Dalton, SES
Director of Civil Works
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

Dear Director Dalton,

It is my pleasure to express support for the City of Topeka's proposal as the non-Federal interest seeking Construction Authorization of a weir along the Kansas River to be included in the 2018 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Annual Report to Congress.

In 2007, the Corps and the City of Topeka funded a preliminary study to evaluate the impact of a weir on the Kansas River but that feasibility study was not included in the 2009 Chief Engineers Report for the Topeka Flood Mitigation Project.

Construction of the weir would fulfill the Corps' mission of aquatic ecosystem restoration. The ponding effect of a weir would create new economic development opportunities, including riverfront development, for Topeka. It would also help with recreation and improving river safety.

Thank you for your consideration of the City of Topeka's proposal.

Sincerely,



Sam Brownback
Governor

Map Document

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Map.pdf



N



1 inch = 319 feet

N Kansas Ave

NE Crane St

NW Curtis St

NW Curtis St

NE CURTIS FLYOFF ST

NE Curtis St

NE Curtis St

NE Curtis St

N Kansas Ave

N Kansas Ave

NE Quincy St

NE Monroe St

NE River Rd

NE Jefferson St

NE Adams St

Additional Proposal Information

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071117 CM letter USACE.pdf



CITY OF TOPEKA

Doug Gerber
Interim City Manager
215 SE 7th Street
Topeka, Kansas 66603
Tel.: (785) 368-3725

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Fax: (785) 368-3909
www.topeka.org

July 10, 2017

Colonel Andrew Sexton
Commander and District Engineer
Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kansas City District
ATTN: Planning Division
601 E 12th St. Ste. 700
Kansas City, MO 64106

Dear Colonel Sexton:

In 2007, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted a feasibility study (Topeka Riverfront Kansas River Concepts Study: W912DQ-04-D-00) with the assistance of the Army Corps of Engineers' consultant engineers Burns and McDonnell. The study was jointly funded by USACE and the City of Topeka, to evaluate the impact of a weir on the Kansas River in downtown Topeka. The Study determined:

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We understand our obligation as the local sponsor, under these Sections described above, is 35 percent of the project implementation costs. We intend to pursue budgetary actions so that funds will be available to meet our cost sharing requirements at the time needed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

I, Doug Gerber, will serve as the point of contact for this project (785) 368-3725 for the City of Topeka, Kansas.

Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Gerber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Doug Gerber,
Interim City Manager