

STAFF

Donnie Rodgers, Jr.
Executive Director

Ashley Nowell
Assistant Director

Julie Cook
Events & Promotions Director

Rachael Fitch
Creative Content & Design Coordinator

BOARD OFFICERS
Dave Eames
President

Sheila Clark
Vice President

Courtney Stoddard
Treasurer

Tony Olson
Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Kim Berwald-Viar

Chad Godfrey

Lynn Hinkle

Don Ploeger

Nick Swearngin

RE: Prioritization of Capital Improvement Projects

Dear City Council,

In 2015, a group of citizens were brought together to form the Downtown Master Plan Taskforce to review the previous 2004 Old Lee's Summit Development Master Plan and other studies such as the 2006 Parking Study to develop a list of priorities moving forward. The top five priorities included an expanded downtown and refined zoning, parking, permanent farmers market facility, housing and density, and better traffic corridors into downtown.

Two of these priorities are addressed directly in the list of projects included in the Capital Improvements Plan passed in 2017; parking and better traffic corridors into downtown.

Downtown has rebounded from the recession adding 71 net new businesses and 517 net new jobs since 2009. Taxable sales have grown from an estimated \$16 million in 2008 to over \$36 million in 2017. Much of this growth can be tied back to the commitment of the city to reinvest in the core of our community including the completion of the Vision of the Heart streetscape in 2007. With this new growth downtown, parking is becoming harder and harder for downtown patrons and employees.

This is an investment in the future of downtown. Delay of addressing parking issues could have a negative impact on the continued growth and success of our downtown. The Downtown Lee's Summit Main Street Board of Directors is in full support that the proposed parking garage be made a priority in the first phase of Capital Improvements Plan. Construction of a new parking garage will help continue the forward momentum of our downtown, drive future development and grow sales tax revenues for our community.

We appreciate City Council and Public Works and their desire to be financially conservative and utilize a pay-as-you-go model for projects under the Capital Improvement Plan. However, we feel that the benefit of financing the downtown parking garage project will help accelerate downtown growth while paired with possible cost savings from lower financing rates compared to increasing construction costs.

Yours Truly,



Donnie Rodgers, Jr.
Executive Director