



Kentucky
League
of Cities

CITY OF PARIS

WORK PLAN 2023



Prepared by the Kentucky League of Cities
Community and Economic Development Team

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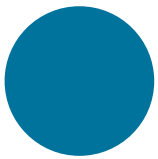
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Introduction

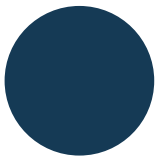
On March 28, 2023, the City of Paris Board of Commissioners held a work session to discuss the current state of the city and future needs over the next five years. The Kentucky League of Cities facilitated the discussion and created a summary of the discussion. The plan reflects the discussion of the day and provides guidance for the board

of commissioners and city staff. In addition, a community survey was conducted to ascertain the opinions of the residents of the city. More than 200 people responded. A summary of their ideas and comments is included at the end of this report.



City of Paris Board of Commissioners

- John A. Plummer, Mayor
- Wallis Brooks, Mayor Pro-Tem/Commissioner
- Sharon B. Fields, Commissioner
- Tim Gray, Commissioner
- Mike Withrow, Commissioner



City Administration

- Jamie Miller, City Manager



Executive Summary

In 2021, the City of Paris asked the Kentucky League of Cities to assist in the effort to look toward the future, assess next steps for the community, and together, focus on priorities. Due to the worldwide pandemic, this endeavor was put on hold. In January 2023, the city again approached KLC to assist in helping to prioritize its projects and goals.

Prior to meeting with the mayor and city commissioners, KLC created and distributed a 14-question survey in preparation for the work session. Responses to this survey were consolidated and then distributed to the city commissioners. This laid the groundwork for a working session of the board of commissioners. The Paris Board of Commissioners convened a work session on March 28, 2023, where the city's vision, goals, and priorities for the next 10 years

were discussed. The KLC facilitators asked for one word that came to mind in describing the City of Paris in 2033. Responses included thriving, growth, progressive, and welcoming.

The Board of Commissioners identified three top priorities.

1. Revenue
2. Infrastructure
3. Recreation

The Paris City Commission sent out a public survey that included six questions. A summary of the community's responses is included.

Current projects, short-term and long-term goals, and priorities were also identified during the work session.



Current Situation

What does Paris look like today?

The mayor and commissioners identified and discussed the many projects that are currently underway. New housing units of all types are being built, progress is being made on the west side project, the electric system is being updated, a new fire station is being discussed, and the city has invested millions of dollars into water lines and stormwater systems. There are several areas that the city wants to prioritize soon, including playground and greenspace renovations, technology infrastructure, and expansion of the water plant.

- Progress: New electrical service system substation and discussions on a new fire station
- Under Construction: All types of housing, infrastructure, including waterlines/ stormwater, electric system upgrades, public safety phase one, west side project
- Soon: Community greenspace updates, technology infrastructure, and water plant expansion



Short-Term Goals and Objectives

What needs to be done in the next year or two that will impact 2033?

There are several objectives over the next two years that Paris wants to achieve. These objectives include the diversification of revenue streams, being proactive with all infrastructure projects (particularly sewer infrastructure), more recreation options for youth, and improvements to water and wastewater systems. The objectives also include infill of vacant city lots, more subsidized housing, more rental properties, implementing Complete Streets, and many more trails, greenspaces, and walking paths. There are also potential areas to address and study surrounding Paris' industrial capacity, the necessary capacity of water and

sewer, how the city must prepare for future growth, and the spillover effects regarding the school systems.

- Proactive: All infrastructure, particularly water, greenspace, housing, implementing Complete Streets, and wastewater
- New: Recreational options, revenue streams, rental and subsidized housing units, and trails and walking paths
- Considerations: Adapting code enforcement processes, community spillover effects, diversifying revenue streams, future growth potentials, industrial capacities, and infilling vacant city lots



Department Heads' Input

What does Paris look like today?

Several of the city's department heads attended the meeting. The city commission asked them to weigh in on the discussion and provide their perspective. They added more depth and context to the discussion. The department heads expressed the necessity of expanding the water plant over simple upgrades, catching up on fixing the issues with the water distribution system, and solving the current dilemma with city fire hydrants. They shared their concerns that some of

these projects would be critical for the long-term sustainability and growth of the city. The projects will also be expensive. The department heads recommended that the city commission identify as many funding sources as possible, including grants and rate adjustments.

- Expand the water plant.
- Improve the water distribution system.
- Identify funding sources to pay for these expensive projects.



Long-Term Future

What can be done in the next three-to-five years to have a positive, long-term impact?

The mayor and commissioners detailed several areas of concern, needs, and questions for the next three to five years that will have a long-term impact. They first focused on the needs of an aging population, solving the current electrical utility system issues, practical solutions for future growth, and problems surrounding heavy traffic flow. Next, many needs were identified, including a community center, completing the High Street project, creating community events similar to the Art Walk, future street and road improvements, and future health care facilities. Finally future needs like assisted living facilities for residents, making downtown more beautiful and walkable,

and what to do with the city hall building in the long-term were discussed.

- Concerns: Aging population, electrical utility system issues, future growth areas, and traffic flow problems
- Needs: Art Walk-like events, a community center, completion of the High Street project, expansions for growth, future street and road improvements, and future healthcare facilities
- Questions: Assisted living needs, downtown beautification, downtown walkability, and long-term disposition of the city hall building

Budget Impact

How many are directly impacted/funded by the city? Budget impact?

Lastly, the commission discussed some key areas that directly affect and impact the city's budget. These key areas include code enforcement, infrastructure of the city, and recreation services offered. There are several areas that have a budgetary impact but are not directly funded by the City of Paris. These areas include encouraging the building of new and improved housing and improving senior citizen facilities and services

within the community. One pivotal point when looking at Paris' budget is the need for the city to create net positive revenue-generating activities.

- Directly: Code enforcement, infrastructure, recreation services
- Indirectly: New and current housing and senior facilities
- Budgetary Needs: Revenue-generating activities

Conclusion

The City of Paris is a historic, spirited, and evolving community with small-town hospitality. In recent years, the city has endeavored to upgrade its infrastructure, improve its economic vitality, improve traffic flow, manage growth responsibly, and be good stewards of the taxpayers money.

Growth is driving change. The city will need to focus on broadband infrastructure, housing, traffic flow, and basic water and sewer infrastructure expansion to meet the needs of the community and ensure that Paris maintains the high quality of life its residents have come to expect and enjoy.



2023 Public Survey Response

Residency and Quality of Life Survey Responses

The City of Paris created a public survey to gauge public opinion on a variety of topics. The city received 219 responses to the survey. The results are summarized in the following tables below.

According to the public survey, around 70.2% have been residents of the city for ten years or more. Approximately 73.5% of respondents stated that they were satisfied with the quality of life in Paris.

Residency - 218 Responses

Length of Residence	# of Responses	% of Responses
Less than five years	37	17.0%
More than five years but less than 10 years	28	12.8%
More than 10 years	153	70.2%

Quality of Life Satisfaction - 219 Responses

Rating	# of Responses	% of Responses
0 (Extremely Dissatisfied)	12	5.5%
1 (Somewhat Dissatisfied)	46	21.0%
2 (Somewhat Satisfied)	128	58.4%
3 (Extremely Satisfied)	33	15.1%

2023 Public Survey Response

Improving Paris: Summary of Citizen Comments

The most common response to improve Paris was “restaurants.” Responses around restaurants were greatly varied. Some common themes included diversifying the types of restaurant options, with both “sit-down” and affordable restaurants being mentioned several times.

The second-highest category was “fixing roads.” These responses ranged from finishing street construction projects currently underway to fixing and improving roads in the future. The third-highest category was “grocery options.” Many respondents wanted more grocery and shopping options. Comments included establishments like

Aldi, Kroger, and mom-and-pop grocery stores.

The fourth-highest category of responses was “clean/improve/revitalize downtown.” These responses included filling vacant properties with a variety of local and small high-quality businesses, pedestrian infrastructure improvements, making downtown livelier, and better night entertainment.

Several other comments included wanting gathering spaces for young people and families, more and better public recreation, parks, better pedestrian connectors, multi-use pathways, and many more entertainment venues. There were several requests for more quality, affordable housing choices.

Top Paris Descriptors	
Quiet	8
Quaint	8
Boring	10
Friendly	7
Welcoming	5
Lacking	5
Small	20
Old	5
Home	12
Nice	6
Stagnant	8

Top Suggestions for Improving Paris	
Fixing Roads	29
Grocery Options	22
Restaurants	49
Clean/Improve/Revitalize Downtown	12

Sources for News				
	Website	Social Media	Local Newspaper	Other
Number	73	176	84	19
Percent	33.3%	80.4%	38.4%	8.7%



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Kentucky League of Cities
100 E Vine St, #800
Lexington, KY 40507
800.876.4552
KLC.ORG