

# Mission Road Improvements

Blue River South to 199<sup>th</sup> Street in Unincorporated Johnson County, Kansas

by



1800 W Old Highway 56 \* 913-715-8300 \* [www.jocogov.org/dept/public-works](http://www.jocogov.org/dept/public-works)

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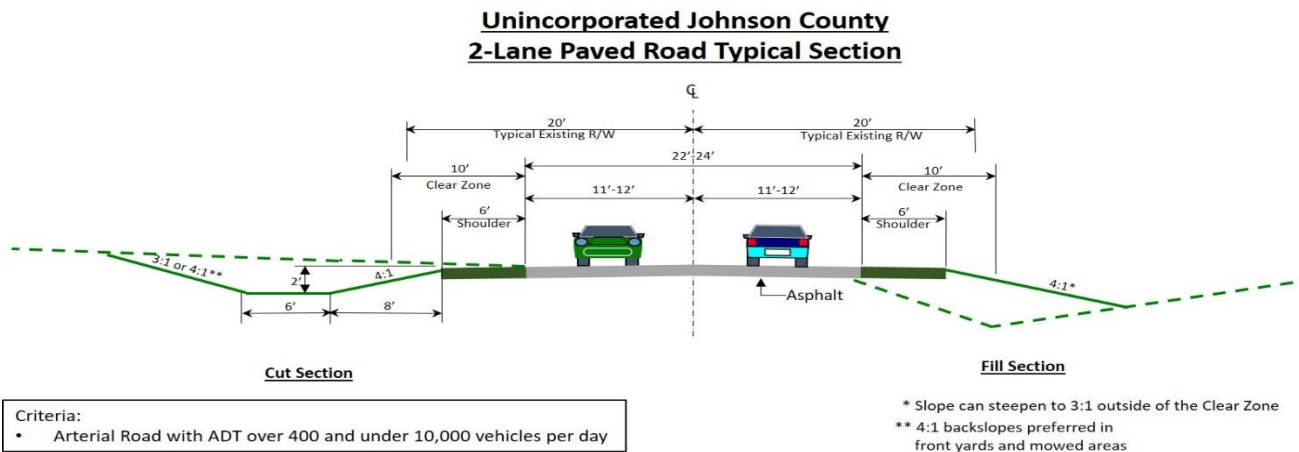
## Overview

Mission Road, south of the Blue River, is an unengineered and unimproved road. Growth and traffic continue to increase in unincorporated Johnson County and in particular in the area of Mission Road. Safety improvements are needed starting at the Blue River bridge and continuing south to 199<sup>th</sup> Street. This informational guide is to help residents understand the intention and timing of future improvements along the Mission Road corridor.

## Why Improvements are Needed

### Safety

Historically, Mission Road, from the Blue River to 199<sup>th</sup> Street, has had the highest concentration of crashes within unincorporated Johnson County. The road is characterized by sharp curvy alignments, edge drop-offs, and obstacles close to the road. Mission Road has also been hard to maintain due to the limited width of the road base. The road tends to want to shift to the west and slide off the cliff thus causing longitudinal cracking and pavement failure. Our plan is to widen the roadway base to allow for a more stable roadway. The improvement will include 6 foot asphalt shoulders, a clear zone area (an area adjacent to the road free of obstacles), and adequate drainage (diagram below).

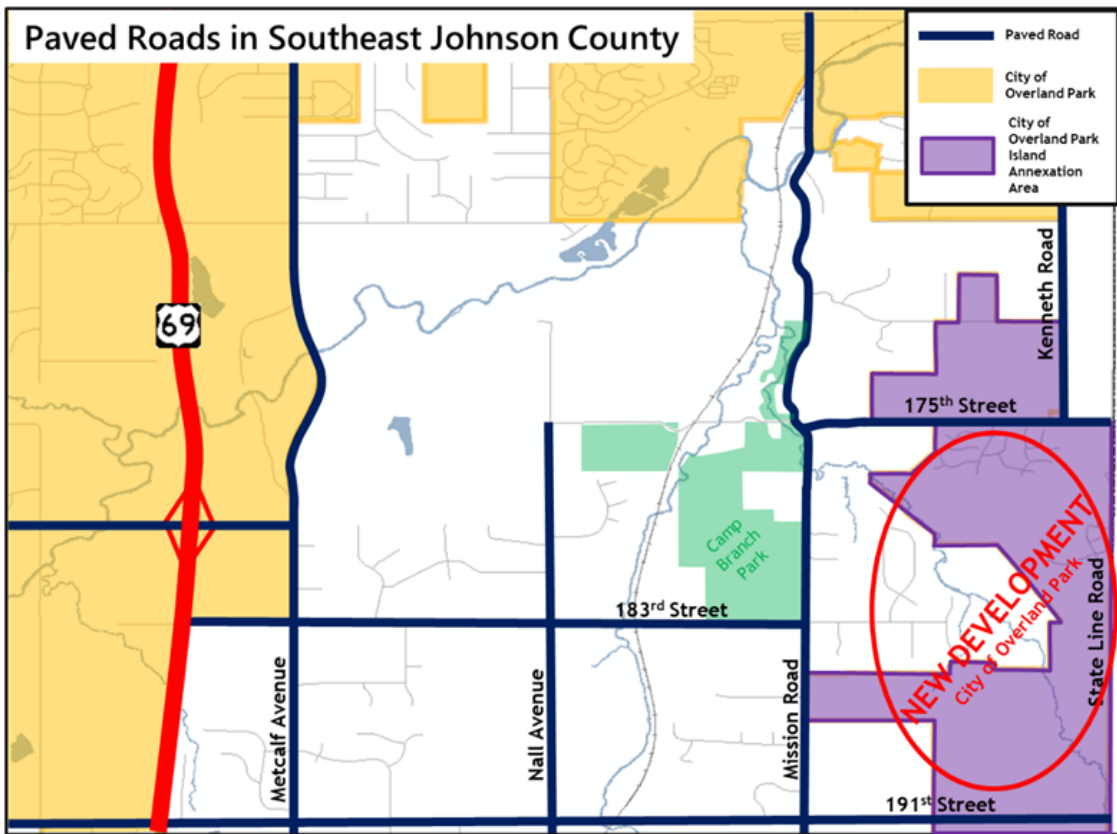


### More Traffic on the Way

Overland Park has annexed portions of the county from 167<sup>th</sup> Street to 199<sup>th</sup> Street between Mission Road and State Line Road which we refer to as the Island Annexation

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area. Recently, sewers have been constructed in this area and urban development has started. In fact, homes are now being constructed in the Island Annexation area on the south side of 175<sup>th</sup> Street. The County Planning Department uses 10 vehicle trips per day per new house as a basic guideline of how much traffic to expect when houses are constructed; so 100 houses translates into 1,000 more vehicles per day. While it is unknown how much urban development will occur in the Island Annexation area, potentially 2,700 houses as well as additional commercial development may occur. The map below shows the paved road network and island annexation area in the southeastern part of Johnson County.



## The Environment

Mission Road, especially north of 183<sup>rd</sup> Street is one of the most unique roads in Johnson County. Our plan is to stay on the existing alignment wherever possible and limit visual impacts to the corridor. In other words, we will try to preserve the unique character of Mission Road wherever possible.

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## Project Schedule

In general, it will take 5-7 years to design, purchase right-of-way, and construct these improvements. The schedule will depend on the availability of funding and the ability to timely acquire the needed rights-of-way.

The County will start with an initial survey, preliminary design and preliminary plan preparation of proposed improvements. When beginning this phase, adjacent property owners will receive a letter informing them of the survey and that County surveyors or consultants may need to access their property within the survey corridor. This will allow us to undertake the design and determine the needed right-of-way. After design is completed, we will contact the residents adjacent to the project to discuss acquisition.

Once right-of-way has been acquired, we will notify utility companies that they may begin their relocation work so that utilities will be out of the way of the road construction. This is likely to be the first work that will be visible to the residents on the project.

After utilities are relocated we will undertake the construction. Traffic will be detoured but landowners will have access to their property during construction. From time to time there may be disruption to the access to your property and this will need to be coordinated. The county and the contractor will work with the landowners to coordinate the access.

We understand the uniqueness of Mission Road and the desire to preserve the existing rural character while still making the necessary road improvements. As we design the improvements we will try to work with the adjacent landowners to accommodate their needs (fences, septic fields, entrances, slopes, trees, etc...). Please feel free to contact this office if you would like any additional information.

## Mission Road Project Status Map

Currently, the Mission Road corridor is broken into 4 projects (Mission Road Projects 1-3 and the 175<sup>th</sup> Street Project). The map on the next page shows the anticipated type of construction work for each project as well as its current phase. The project map on the next page will be continuously updated as the projects advance towards completion.



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