



Carl Junction council agrees to pay \$40,000 for transportation plan

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CARL JUNCTION, Mo. — The Carl Junction City Council this week agreed to a \$40,000 contract with a Kansas City firm to draft a long-range transportation plan for the town. The contract was awarded to Transystems Corp. for a review of the city streets, highways, traffic flow, and future growth and its impact on the roads.

City Administrator Steve Lawver said the city's share of the cost will be about \$18,000. The remaining cost will be paid by the Joplin Area Transportation Study Organization, Jasper County and the Joplin Special Road District.

The plan is expected to identify short-term and long-term improvement needs and development priorities. An analysis of connecting sidewalks and trails also will be included in the study. "Just make sure they include Fir Road and Joplin Street in that study," said Councilman Richard Zaccarelli.

Lawver said the current Fir Road was never built to handle today's traffic flow and new development in the Briarbrook area.

The firm said the study could be completed in about six months.

In other business, the council agreed to purchase an acre of land adjacent to the location of the new community center that is to be built just north of the downtown fire station.

The council agreed to pay \$95,000 to CNJ Developers for the land that will allow for expansion of the proposed community center.

Lawver said the city plans to seek construction bids on the project next month. The \$4.1 million center will house City Hall, a senior center, a gymnasium and community meeting rooms.

The council also approved a land transaction that will provide for the purchase of abandoned railroad right of way for \$15,000 from Briarbrook Development Co. The old rail bed from Briarbrook Drive to Cooper Oaks will allow the city to extend the Thom Station Trail.

In other business, Councilman Pat White questioned the need for an outside architectural firm to study the city's four parks and draft a master plan for improvements.

The project is in the planning stage, Lawver said, and no bids have been solicited.

"I just don't see paying someone to come in and tell us what we want to do," White said.

Lawver said the detailed plans and drawings provide an incentive for agencies that distribute grant money to consider the city's proposal.

Lawver said city officials were "disappointed" with plans submitted by some area college students.

"That was more of a review of parks that we have," he said. "We are looking for future planning."

If a firm is hired, the group would conduct a public hearing before any final drafts were completed, said Mayor Michael Moss.