



Reconnecting Communities: 21st Street

Local Planning Grant

The City of Wichita has received a **planning grant** to study how best to reconnect Wichita's 21st Street Corridor. This vital portion of the city includes two historically and culturally rich communities – the North End, which is predominantly Hispanic, and North Wichita, home to some of Wichita's predominantly black communities.



The City applied for this grant in 2022 to study 21st Street, which is divided by Interstate 135 and several railroad crossings, where trains can lead to long waits. This causes frustration for residents and those who travel in the area and leads many people to avoid the area. Additionally, idling traffic produces greenhouse gases that can lead to higher rates of asthma and other health concerns.

The study also wants to learn from the community as it considers how to reconnect access between the east and west ends to better meet daily needs, such as access to grocery stores, medical facilities, after-school programs, and Wichita State University. The project also will consider improvement opportunities for transit, bicycle and pedestrian access, solutions for individuals with disabilities, and other needs.

Federal Purpose for Grant

The United States Department of Transportation's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program is a Federal grant program helping today's communities repair the harm caused by infrastructure choices of the past.

Many highways constructed in the 1950s and 1960s disconnected communities, creating economic, social, and mobility challenges that persist today.

The Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grants are supporting transformative, community-led solutions that can turn aging infrastructure into opportunities for improving community connectivity and cohesion.





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About this Process

- ▶ **Concerns have been heard.** These barriers are real and impact your daily life through slowdowns, stalled trains, inability to access other parts of the city, and even delayed emergency service response. Planning for change is one of the early steps toward solutions.
- ▶ **Transportation work is slow.** Planning and implementation may take years, and the results of this conversation will not be immediate. Your input today is an important part of developing the best solutions as the process moves forward.
- ▶ **The goal of this conversation is to understand current barriers and imagine future opportunities.**

