

Kansas City 2030 Strategic Plan: Summary of Key Goals

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Link to Imagine Downtown KC Plan, <https://www.downtownkc.org/imagine/#overview>

In January, the Downtown Council of Kansas City (DTC) announced a 2030 Strategic Plan to improve the city. The target area is the Missouri portion of Kansas City, situated along the border of Kansas. The plan includes proposals for major changes to the downtown highway loop, including caps and potential removal. The strategic plan focuses on improving Kansas City's livability, mobility, access to green space, economic viability, and sustainability.

To enact these changes over the next eight years, the DTC has outlined six “transformative policies” that they expect will help accomplish the city’s goals. For example, the



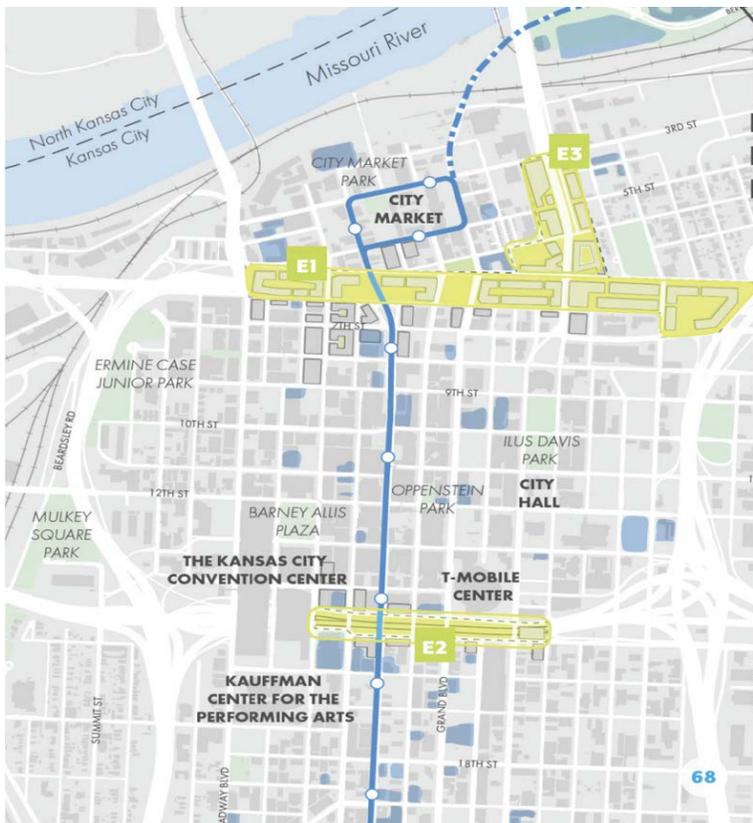
The Imagine Downtown KC 2030 Strategic Plan Transformative Policies.

Mosaic of Neighborhoods is an effort to connect local neighborhoods and establish a sense of community among them. The DTC will encourage collaboration among neighborhoods and city officials and advocate for economic investment in the area. A second example is the *Housing for All* policy, which focuses on ensuring housing affordability and avoiding the displacement of residents as new investments in the city are made. A third example is the *21st Century*

Jobs, Economy, and Recovery policy, which promotes reopening strategies as companies begin

to recover from Covid-19 complications, facilitates economic developments among the downtown neighborhoods, and provides programs and funding to support local entrepreneurs. The combination of the six transformative policies is part of the DTC's comprehensive approach to ensure the vigor and vibrancy of the city for years to come.

The DTC has named several “catalytic projects” spanning from redevelopment efforts to rethinking transportation to propel these policies into action. While individual projects vary, they all work towards accomplishing the goals of transformative policies and increasing the city's livability.



The target areas for rethinking the Kansas City Innerloop as proposed by the 2030 Strategic Plan
 E1 – North Loop
 E2 – South Loop
 E3 – The Highway 9 Project

Rethinking the downtown Kansas City highway loop is one of the key projects to improve the city. The DTC divided the rethink and reimagination of the downtown loop into three subsections – the North Loop, the South Loop, and the Highway 9/Bridging Park and Market.

For the North Loop section, the DTC plan to expand on previous studies (Beyond the Loop Planning and Environmental Linkages study, initial phase completed in 2018) to explore the opportunities to remove this section

of the urban highway. In this subsection, the strategic plan emphasizes working with local

neighborhoods to restitch the area while prioritizing green spaces and integrating current and future public transportation opportunities into the converted space.



2030 Strategic Plan proposal to remove the North Loop and replace it with a boulevard.

At the South Loop, a highway cap will be placed over I-670. The 5.5-acre cap, currently in the engineering and design phase, will function as a park in the heart of downtown. The highway lid is estimated to cost \$160 million, which cost would be offset by the estimated \$90 million increase in

property value of surrounding properties and the promotion of \$490 million in subsequent economic impact.

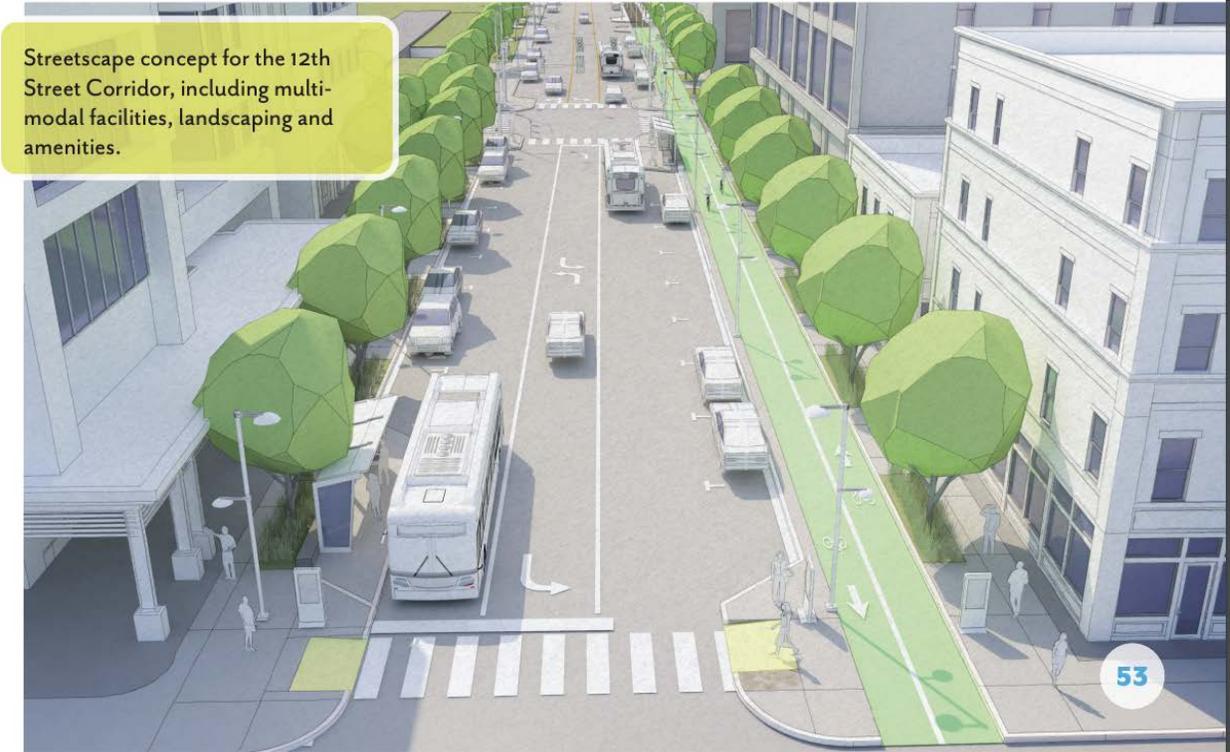
The current proposal for the Highway 9 portion of the project is to bring the elevated highway to ground level to reduce its footprint and integrate it into the urban landscape. The 2018 Beyond the Loop Planning and Environmental Linkages study suggested that this section of the freeway could be brought to ground level. The DTC would like to continue the feasibility analysis of this option.



2030 Strategic Plan proposal to place a highway cap over I-670 in the South Loop. This project is in the engineering and design phase.

A core goal of the DCT strategic plan is to enhance the connectivity and mobility of the downtown and surrounding area. The downtown has seen an increase in investment and development over the recent years, while many of the historic and culturally diverse neighborhoods east and west of the downtown have

been left behind. This results from a combination of many factors, including physical constraints, a history of racially-motivated policies and biases, and generations of disinvestment in these communities. This results from a combination of many factors, including physical constraints, a

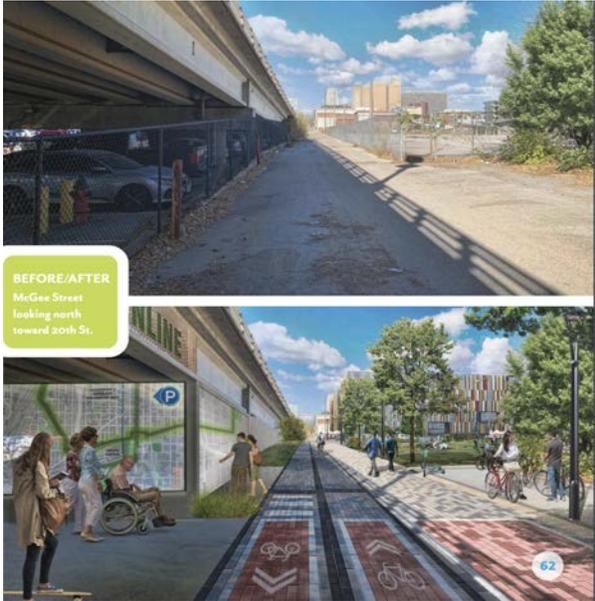


history of racially-motivated policies and biases, and generations of disinvestment in these communities. Through improving the east-west connections, the DCT hopes to reconnect these neighborhoods back to downtown and connect them to recent investment benefits. To help with this, the strategic plan prioritizes multi-modal forms of transportation along the streets running east and west. This includes creating a BRT line running east-west, adding protected bike lanes, and widening sidewalks. In addition, the city is looking to expand the east-west boundaries of current Streetcar routes.

The DCT plans to institute innovation districts to help drive economic growth in partnership with local institutions and the community. For example, the Keystone Innovation District will become a hub of entrepreneurship and education. The Council will leverage the district to ensure that economic opportunities and resources are available to the local

community. Other innovation districts will focus on supporting the University of Missouri Kansas City Health Sciences District and the Crossroads Arts District.

Another goal of the DTC is to increase and enhance public green and open spaces to improve the livability. The Greenline is one of these projects. The Greenline will create a



walkable path that loops around the downtown area connecting the various other green spaces around the city and provide easier access to the downtown core for surrounding neighborhoods. The Greenline will also be able to host a heritage path, celebrating the city’s cultural history. Other plans include the redevelopment of current plazas and parks, creation of new green infrastructure, and the conversion of a bridge, set to be removed into a park.

In summary, the Kansas City DTC plans to transform the city into a more livable, equitable, and economically dynamic city. The Council is using a comprehensive approach via the Reimagine KC 2030 Strategic plan to combine economic, transportation, and public works projects to increase Kansas City’s quality of life. All of this helps ensure that Kansas City is an exciting and vibrant place to live and work.