



Wright City R-II School District

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Over the past few weeks, there has been discussion within our community about the state of Roelker Road and the opening of the District's new high school. Unfortunately, these discussions have led to misinformation being communicated about the District, including what it agreed to do to help with Roelker Road, the cost of that work, and why that work has not been completed. To help the community better understand what has occurred and where things currently stand, the District would like to provide the following information:

- On July 14, 2022, the City granted the District a "Conditional Use Permit" for the new high school, on the condition that the District construct a turn/slip lane on Roelker Road at the north entrance to the new high school at Horseshoe Court, along with a striped crosswalk with a rapid flashing beacon. Neither the Conditional Use Permit nor any other permit required the District to make any other repairs to Roelker Road.
- The District was first told by representatives of the City that the District's building permit fees would be waived (as the City traditionally does for other public entities) then that the District would only have to pay for the costs of third-party inspection services. The payment of third-party inspection services was understood by both parties to be the extent of the building permit fees to be paid by the District.
- At the District's Board meeting on July 21, 2022, an estimate of around \$300,000-\$350,000 was provided for the District's work on Roelker Road and other related work near Roelker Road. This was only an estimate and was not an amount pledged to the City from the District. It was also before the District ever put the new high school project out to bid.
- On November 10, 2022, the District received bids for the new high school project, which included the agreed-upon work to be completed on Roelker Road. Wright Construction was the winning bidder, and they included a line item for the Roelker Road work, at a cost of \$40,000 to the District.
- Almost as soon as construction began in earnest, Wright Construction made the City aware of the poor condition of Roelker Road. In a Board of Aldermen meeting on April 23, 2023, a City employee stated that the road was improperly constructed.
- The City requested that, rather than using asphalt for the Roelker Road work, the District use concrete. Though this represented an additional cost of around \$12,000, Wright Construction agreed to use concrete and to cover this cost – leaving the District's cost for the work at \$40,000.
- As of October 20, 2024, the District has fully paid the City for the costs of third-party inspections services associated with the District's building permit.
- On November 22, 2024, as Wright Construction was preparing to complete the Roelker Road work, the City presented the District with an MOU that required the District to complete many items that the District never agreed to and which were not requirements of the District's permits – including constructing an additional turn/slip lane, making repairs to Roelker Road, and installing a lighted crosswalk that would cost tens (if not hundreds) of thousands of dollars.
- On December 5, 2024, Wright Construction informed the City that the City had allowed two utility pedestals to be installed in the footprint of the western half of the turn/slip lane after the District's plans were approved and construction on the project had already begun. These pedestals are not the District's responsibility to relocate, and the work cannot be completed until these pedestals are relocated by the City or the utility provider(s).

- On December 9, 2024, after Wright Construction completed the eastern half of the turn/slip lane, the City stated that the work on Roelker Road must stop until the District signed the proposed MOU, including its costly components.
- The District attempted to discuss these matters with the City on multiple occasions in December 2024.
- On December 19, 2024, the City Inspector informed Wright Construction and two District administrators that he was instructed not to issue an occupancy permit for the new high school due to the proposed MOU not being signed.
- On December 20, 2024, the City issued a temporary occupancy permit for the new high school.

The District remains ready to complete the work on Roelker Road that it originally agreed to perform. The only two things preventing this are beyond its control – the relocation of the two new utility pedestals and a requirement that the District agree to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on work it never agreed to perform and which was never part of the District's permits. We are continuing attempts to work through these issues with the City. In the meantime, we're hopeful that this information will provide clarity for our community regarding Roelker Road and why the turn/slip lane has not yet been completed.