

Wasena Bridge Replacement Project



Built in 1939, the Wasena Bridge is a fracture-critical structure that is nearing the end of its intended lifespan and will be reconstructed to ensure public safety and usability.

Current Timeline

The City has awarded the construction contract for the bridge project to Archer Western Construction, LLC. The project is expected to cost \$50.3 million and will begin in early April, with road detours following soon after. The demolition of the current bridge will start in early May on the south end in Wasena and take about six months to fully remove. The new bridge should be completed — along with landscaping enhancements to the surrounding areas — by Spring 2026.

Project Impact

The new bridge will feature designated bike lanes, wider sidewalks, a roundabout on the north side, and improved LED lighting both on top and under the bridge. Further enhancements will include four “lookout” seating areas for travelers to rest and take in the views, as well as enhanced landscaping and tree plantings.



Roanoke River Greenway

This pedestrian and bicycle throughway will remain open throughout the bridge replacement project with detours (see map on reverse). The section of the greenway in Wasena Park will be closed, with a fully signed detour via Winchester Avenue, Main Street, Winona Avenue, and Wiley Drive.

Local Residents

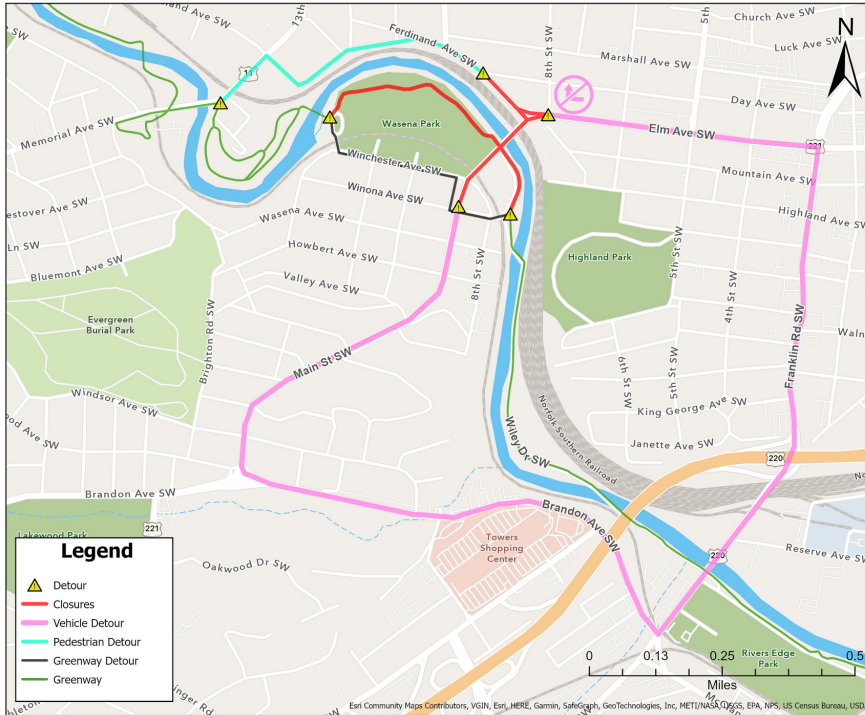
Detours during the bridge closure will inevitably impact services like school transportation, solid waste removal, and public transportation. The City is already working so services remain accessible.

Local Businesses

In response to the potential impact of vehicle detours during the bridge closure, the City is developing and executing a “Ways to Wasena” campaign to boost consumer interest and drive traffic to Wasena businesses.

Detours

Pedestrian, Vehicle, and Greenway



NOTES

- **Buildings on Elm Avenue between Ferdinand Avenue & 8th Street**
 - Accessed via the alley between Elm and Day avenues.
 - Pedestrian access will be coordinated during construction.
- **Greenway detour**
 - Travels along the entirety of little Main Street between Winchester and Winona avenues.
 - Pedestrians and cyclists share greenway detour with vehicles.
- **Little Main Street**
 - Local vehicle traffic may be limited to one lane between Winchester Avenue and the alley.
 - No vehicle access to little Main between the alley and Winona after completion of the project. That area will be a plaza, instead.



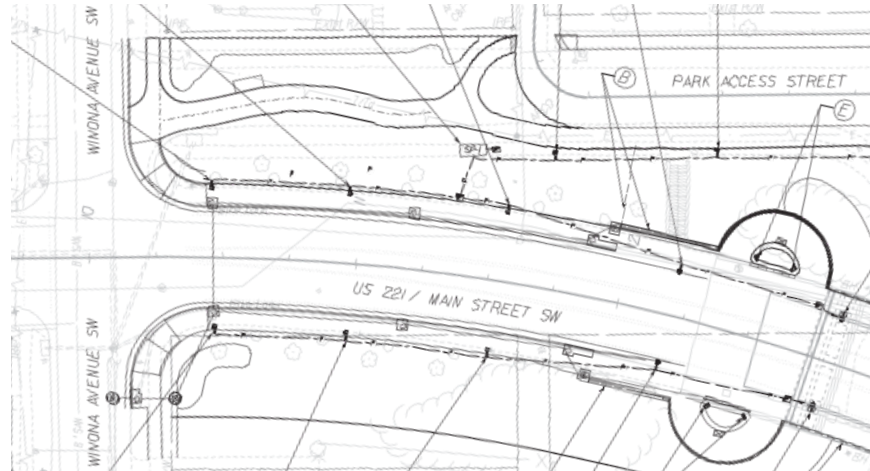
Wasena Bridge

Frequently Asked Questions



Why is the City adding a plaza on the south side of the bridge?

The southwest end of little Main Street will be turned into a plaza area, with a walking path and sidewalks connecting the Wasena Village and Wasena Park. The plaza will reduce the risk of vehicle collision at the intersection of Winona Avenue and little Main. Bronze plaques from the old bridge and historical information about the old bridge will also be showcased there.



This engineering drawing outlines the exact location of the plaza.

How will this impact parking in the Wasena area?

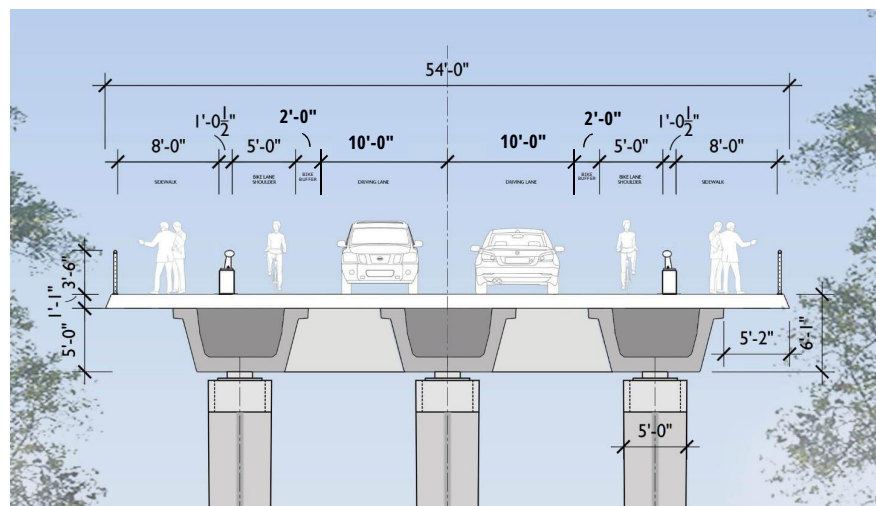
Currently used as an informal parking lot, the city plans to transform the area under the bridge along Winchester Avenue into green space. However, Wasena Park's 100-space parking lot — the largest parking lot of any City park — will serve visitors with a landscaped plaza connection planned between Winchester and the Wasena Village businesses on Main Street.

How will the new bridge slow down traffic?

The Wasena Bridge project will introduce some traffic calming measures, including a roundabout on the north end of the bridge. To help with traffic in the village, the width of the pavement will be narrowed and some curb bump-outs will be installed.

How will the bike lanes look?

Roughly two-thirds of the new bridge's width will be devoted to bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Cyclists will be able to travel in the bike lanes or on the sidewalks. Physical barriers will separate the sidewalks from the bike lanes and a two-foot buffer will separate the bike lanes from the vehicular lanes.



This drawing shows a typical cross-section of the bridge.

Parks & Recreation

Projects Near the Bridge



Wasena Skatepark

The current Skatepark under Wasena Bridge will be closed during bridge construction, with the portable skate elements being moved to a new park location. Construction of a new Skatepark is expected to begin in mid-2024 in the approximate location of the current tennis and basketball courts. There are no plans to replace the tennis and basketball courts, and construction on the Skatepark and Wasena Bridge will not limit use of the baseball fields.

In-River Park

Construction of the In-River Park project is expected to begin in early 2025. The In-River Park will include both in-river elements and river access points. Its construction will, at times, impact user access to the Roanoke River in various locations between Memorial Bridge and Smith Park.

Downstream Wiley Drive Low-Water Bridge

Engineering work has not yet begun for the low-water bridge replacement, but to avoid multiple, simultaneous long-term greenway closures, construction will not begin until after the Wasena Bridge project is complete.

Roanoke Parks and Recreation Headquarters

The City has plans to turn the former Richardson-Wayland site into the future headquarters of Roanoke Parks and Recreation. That redevelopment project will also involve adding a greenway/blueway trailhead at Memorial Bridge. The City expects construction to start in late 2024.

Parks, Greenway, and Roanoke River

The Roanoke River will be closed for recreation at the Wasena Bridge construction site. Because the Wasena Bridge reconstruction, Wasena Skatepark, and In-River Park projects are operating on very similar timelines, impacts to user experiences should be limited to the bridge project timeframe. Updates will be shared frequently on closures and openings via social media and City of Roanoke communications channels.

Want to stay in the know?
Sign up for Wasena Bridge
Replacement Project updates:



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ME!**



Questions or concerns?

Contact the Office of Community Engagement at communityengagement@roanokeva.gov