

City of Bel Aire - News Release

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Woodlawn Blvd. Subsurface Investigation Report Received

On February 6, 2024, KDOT delivered their Subsurface Investigation Report to Bel Aire staff. The report, accessible on the City's website, <https://www.belaireks.gov/WoodlawnKDOTreport>, provides comprehensive insights into the test results, identified failures, and proposed remedial options. The Bel Aire Governing Body received a copy of the report at their regular meeting on February 6th.

City staff will share the report with all parties involved in the project, continue reviewing the report and meeting with KDOT over the next couple of weeks. The council will also review the information and begin deliberations on a plan of action later this month.

We understand there may be questions from citizens or the media but cannot comment further until all parties have thoroughly reviewed the report, had their questions answered and given ample opportunity to discuss the remedies.

We would like to sincerely thank Secretary Reed and his KDOT team for spending the time and resources to complete such an expansive study. This report will give us the information needed to understand the failures, make repairs, and ensure the citizens of Bel Aire receive the road they deserve. We will keep you informed as additional information is available and next steps identified.

About Woodlawn Expansion Project:

Woodlawn Blvd serves as a major entrance to the City of Bel Aire. Originally constructed as a two-lane paved road with open ditches and no sidewalks, the growing demands of our community necessitated significant improvements, including the addition of a signalized intersection.

In 2015, Bel Aire applied for grant funding through WAMPO to reconstruct Woodlawn from 37th to 45th as a three-lane road with curb & guttering, sidewalks and signalized intersection at 45th. The Woodlawn expansion was approved as a priority project in 2017 by the WAMPO Policy Board with funding available in 2021.

In 2018, MKEC Engineering was hired to complete design work. Construction of the project was awarded to Pearson Construction in 2021 with work starting the end of that year. Garver was hired to perform inspections. Since this project is receiving federal funds through WAMPO, KDOT acts as the city's agent and has been involved throughout.

The project was to be completed by October of 2023. However, during the summer of 2023, signs of pavement failures began to manifest north of the railroad tracks. All parties were made aware of the issues and work stopped. Not knowing exactly what was causing the failures, Bel Aire contacted KDOT Secretary Reed to ask for his assistance.