




Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & PUBLIC WORKS

Jim Gray
Mayor

David L. Holmes
Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

To: Keith Horn, Managing Attorney
Dept. of Law

From: 
David Holmes, Commissioner
Department of Environmental Quality & Public Works

Date: October 10, 2014

Re: Proposed Transfer of Right-of-Way – Washington Avenue

The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government has received a request to transfer right-of-way of Washington Avenue, which is located between South Limestone and Rose Street. The request comes from the University of Kentucky and is attributable to the state Transportation Cabinet's reconfiguration of this intersection.

The request and pertinent support materials were circulated among various divisions and utility representatives to determine impacts to current operations. The comments can be summarized as follows:

LFUCG Divisions:

Div. of Planning: The Division of Planning has no objection to the closure of Washington Street. (Chris King)

Div. of Engineering: Engineering does not object to the closing of Washington St. Please note that the released right of way will need to reserve easements for any existing utilities, easements for sewers that would remain with DWQ, take over maintenance of sewers that DWQ will release, and provide an easement for what we believe is a State storm sewer at Washington St @ S. Limestone. (Brad Frazier, Andrew Grunwald)

Div. of Traffic Engineering: Traffic Engineering does not object to the closure of Washington Avenue and releasing the right-of-way to the abutting property owner(s) contingent on the items below:

- Huguelet Avenue must remain open to the public.

- Street lights along Washington Ave. must be removed or transferred to the University of Kentucky. Our records indicate there are ten (10) street lights currently being paid for by the City.
- Modifications to the Washington/Rose traffic signal are the responsibility of the University. It has not been determined whether modifications will be required or if the signal will remain in operation at this time.

Fire Department: The Fire Department has no objections to the transfer of ROW to UK and a closure of a portion of Washington Avenue, provided a permanent public safety easement is provided along the closed portion of Washington Avenue, from the intersection of Washington and Gladstone Street to Rose Street. Further, UK would include a 20 foot-wide path constructed in a manner that can withstand the weight of Fire Department emergency vehicles, including fire engines and fire trucks, as well as an access path from Graham Street that provides emergency fire suppression capability for the four, historic Quadrangle buildings.

Utilities:

Kentucky Utilities: KU has existing facilities and would like to retain easements. If proposed plan is passed, then it would eliminate the need for service signals at the Washington / Rose intersection. (Kevin Long)

Kentucky-American Water Company: Kentucky-American DOES have facilities in the Washington Avenue right-of-way which is proposed to be closed. Accordingly, we will Require easement rights be retained and copy of easement provided on Washington Avenue before final consent is given. (Tobey Adams)

Windstream: After review of the attached materials, the closing will not have any adverse effect on our operation. Any utility easement retained by KU will work for us as well. We will use KU pole line in the event we need a service route in the area. (Mike Adair)

Columbia Gas: This closure will have no affect on our Gas Lines. Please feel free to proceed. (Tony Tipton)

clh