

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE



PROJECT REPORT

JULY 2025

1-CENT SALES TAX PROJECT CATEGORIES

Beautification
Community Development
Economic Development
Infrastructure

Crime, Drug, &
Alcohol Prevention
Housing
Project Maintenance

Completed Projects

Launch Liberal 2035 Comprehensive Plan

The “Launch Liberal 2035” comprehensive plan was formally adopted by the Commission in August. Our plan was shaped by community feedback collected through a community-wide survey, public pop-up events, stakeholder workshops/focus groups, steering committee meetings, and meetings with City leadership. The Launch Liberal 2035 comprehensive plan communicates our aspirations and goals to private sector investors, local institutions, businesses, and residents. The plan serves as a playbook for local leaders to understand the appropriate types of development and land uses in the City. More information can be found at: www.cityofliberal.org/launchliberal.



Ortuno Housing Addition Infrastructure

Infrastructure development for the Ortuno Addition Rural Housing Incentive District (RHID) has been completed. The infrastructure included streets, drainage, and water/sewer utility extensions to support development for additional single-family and

multi-family homes in Southeast Liberal near McCray and Harold Boulevard. The City of Liberal served as the developer for the RHID and will recoup invested dollars from property taxes to reimburse those investments.

Randall Pond

The “Randall Pond” retention pond has been completed and is providing much needed drainage for neighborhoods in Southwest Liberal near U.S. Highway 54. This project is funded by the infrastructure (drainage) portion of the 1-cent sales tax.

Leete Park Playground Turf

Installation of playground turf at Leete Park has been completed. The playground often experiences flooding and mulch is washed away after rainfall. The turf and underground drainage will alleviate this problem, improve aesthetics, create a more physically accessible playground, and add extra safety protection for falls. The turf carries a 15-year warranty.

Current Projects

CityBus Transit Facility

Our CityBus building project continues to move forward with contractor bids for project construction being received recently. The facility will provide secure indoor parking for the bus fleet and staff office space. The project is funded in large part by the Kansas Dept. of Transportation with matching grants from the 1-cent sales tax.



Rock Island Depot Repair

The city has been awarded \$77k from the Kansas Historical Society’s Heritage Trust Fund program to assist with needed repairs to the Rock Island Depot. Bids will be opened soon to start with the building’s roof replacement. One-cent sales tax funds will serve as the local match for grant funds. Further repairs to the building’s gutter system and foundation will also be required.

Light Park Fitness Court

Our Commission approved a new fitness court project, which will replace a playground area which was removed from Light Park (north of Adventure Bay Water Park). The court

will include outdoor workout equipment, turf surfacing, shade, and other amenities. Estimated installation will begin in September once equipment and fixtures arrive.

McCray Dog Park

Plans continue moving forward to establish a community dog park with a targeted completion date this year. McCray Park near S. Pershing Ave and W. Pine Street has been selected for the site. This project has been frequently requested by our residents.



Park Lighting

Park pathway lighting installation has started at Country Club Park and McCray Park. Light bollard installation on the south side of Country Club Park will be completed following relocation of a sidewalk away from the roadway. Mahuron Park and Blue Bonnet Park will also receive solar pole lighting. These lights are expected to improve safety and the overall visitor experience.

Future Projects

Sports Complex Parking

There is an increasing need for vehicle parking near the National Beef Family Sports Complex to accommodate attendees. Staff are evaluating options to expand available parking.

Gun Range Relocation

Relocation of the current gun range has been an ongoing project idea under discussion. City staff have continued to evaluate an appropriate site location for a proposed range to include an area for the public and a separated space for law enforcement training.

Bus Stop Enhancements

Staff are exploring the addition of seating and possible shelters at bus stops in Liberal.

Program Reports

Housing Programs

The following awards were provided for housing programs from January-July 2025:

PROGRAM	# AWARDS YEAR-TO-DATE	\$ AWARDS YEAR-TO-DATE
Paint-the-Town	63	\$31,500
First Time Homebuyer	35	\$105,000
Housing Construction Incentive	9	\$67,500
Emergency Home Repair	58	\$170,874
*NEW: Fence Program	0	\$0

Façade Improvement Program

The following awards were provided for the façade grant program from January-July 2025:

PROGRAM	# AWARDS YEAR-TO-DATE	\$ AWARDS YEAR-TO-DATE
Façade Grant	7	\$62,512

Note: There is sufficient budget authority in this fund to increase to \$100,000 in façade grant funds in 2025, so we will continue accepting new applications.