

Since 2016 the City of St. Francis has invested more than \$2,000,000 in street improvement projects with an additional \$1,090,390 in grant funding received for these projects. Following is a summary of the significant projects completed through July 2025:

- 2016 – Intersection work at Fourth and Denison, Intersection work at First and Quincy, and the resurfacing of College Street from North Street to Spencer Street. (\$146,031.61)
- 2017 – Intersection work at Spencer and Quincy, Intersection work at Spencer and River, Intersection work at Benton and Washington (\$23,283.25)
- 2018 – Resurfacing of College from Spencer Street to Highway 36, Intersection work at College and North (\$164,532.50)
- 2019 – Crack sealing (\$6,820)
- 2020 – Chip sealing of Whittier Street, alley approaches (\$31,236.60)

In 2020, voters approved a 1% sales tax for infrastructure improvements. The plan for the revenue generated from the sales tax is primarily for street improvements and repayment of bonds issued for these improvements.

With the passing of the sales tax, the City began working on a plan for two major street improvement projects. Miller and Associates was hired to assist the City with identifying and evaluating streets that could potentially qualify for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. Eligibility criteria is that at least 51% of the persons benefiting from the street project must be low to moderate income (LMI). An LMI survey was done to confirm eligibility. The City then applied for and received a \$600,000 Community Development Block Grant. The total estimated cost of phase 1 was \$1,450,000 and bonds were issued for the balance of the project.

Improvements were completed in 2021 and 2022 on the following streets:

Phase 1:

Benton: Spencer to Emerson  
Denison: Spencer to Whittier  
Frances: Second to First  
Frances: Washington to Emerson  
Parkway Drive: Fourth to Frances  
Scott: Whittier to North

The process for phase 2 began in the fall of 2021 and again the City qualified for CDBG funding, receiving \$490,390. The total estimated cost of phase 2 was \$1,081,920 and bonds were issued for the balance of the project.

Improvements were completed in 2023 on the following streets:

Phase 2:

Whittier: Quincy to Scott  
Frances: Spencer to Emerson  
Webster: Frances to College  
Quincy: Highway 36 to First  
College: Highway 36 to Spencer

With the two major projects completed, the City began focusing on a plan to move forward with ongoing improvements for other streets in town.

In 2024 \$164,724.33 was invested in streets with chip sealing being completed on the following streets:

- Benton Street from Spencer St to North St
- Denison Street from Spencer St to Whittier St
- Frances Street from Washington St to Emerson St
- College Street from Spencer St to North St
- Benton Street from Spencer St to the Access Road
- River Street from Washington St to the Access Road
- First Street from Lorraine St to Frances St
- Scott Street from Spencer St to the Access Road
- Jackson Street from College St to Cedar St

In July of 2025 intersection work was completed at Benton and Spencer. (\$60,720)

The City Council Street Committee (Mayor Amanda Milne, Councilman Justin Lohr, City Superintendent Dan Blair) has spent considerable time looking at the streets in town and identifying those most in need of repair. The streets were categorized by priority and the list sent to Tyler Hillmer, Engineer with Miller and Associates. At a special meeting of the City Council on June 30, Tyler presented a map of the City showing the streets that were determined to be of the highest priority. He discussed the differences in construction materials and shared the estimated costs of the repairs for each of the streets. This information will be used to determine the next steps.

(Look elsewhere in this post for the details from Miller & Associates regarding the estimated costs of future street improvements).

The St. Francis City Council recognizes the importance of investing in infrastructure improvements for the City. In addition to the street projects, beginning in 2020 approximately \$200,000 a year has been put into electrical infrastructure improvements. The Council is also committed to sharing as much information as possible with the public. Public input is welcomed and encouraged.