



# City of Monett

Pride and Progress

Mike Brownsberger, Mayor  
Al Dohmen, Commissioner • Ken Gaspar, Commissioner  
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## Official City Statement on the Central Avenue Improvements Project

January 26, 2024

We would first like to acknowledge and thank the recent public listening session attendees. The meeting held on January 16<sup>th</sup> provided us with feedback on the Central Avenue Improvements project. We understand many in attendance may have been looking for some answers, however, this session was designed to listen to Monett's citizens. The goal to obtain feedback from as many people as possible was reached. Many questions asked were captured and responses are being provided to those individuals. We acknowledge much of the feedback we received from this meeting was in opposition to the roundabout portion of the Central Avenue Improvements Project. While this meeting's sentiment was largely opposed to the roundabout, the City has also received favorable community feedback. As expected, this very serious matter carries a great deal of emotion especially when considering property acquisition.

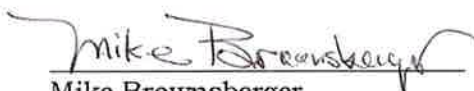
The City of Monett has administered this project openly and lawfully. Opportunities for community input were presented over the years and during those occasions, the public supported the project. Decisions and commitments with large financial impacts have been made based upon the community's acceptance over the years. Additionally, the City has made a commitment to the State of Missouri's Department of Transportation (MODOT), who is a major project partner. The twice-approved transportation sales tax highlighted this project in the communicated plan since the very beginning. The City has already invested over \$1 million to date. These dollars would be lost if this project is cancelled and MODOT's current investment of over \$2 million would also be lost. Moreover, if the City withdraws this project, MODOT could prioritize future grant funding opportunities to communities other than ours. MODOT could question Monett's commitment. Also at risk would be an unknown amount of grant dollars Monett could potentially be awarded from MODOT. In the future, major transportation projects would therefore be at risk.

We feel duty-bound to proceed.

It should be known that we greatly understand the decision's significance. This Council must consider the entire community. We must also be committed to a future Monett where growth and progress are paramount.

We would like to reiterate our appreciation for all the wonderful community members, those in favor and in opposition to this project, for you all are what make Monett the best place to work, play, and call home. Thank you for allowing us to represent you as your Monett City Council.

Signed,  
Monett City Council

  
Mike Brownsberger  
Mayor

  
Al Dohmen  
City Commissioner

  
Ken Gaspar  
City Commissioner

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