



**Downtown Council of KC Announces Bridging Park & Market Study**  
**Self-Guided Online Public Open House**

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November 4, 2020 – The City of Kansas City, MO, in partnership with the Downtown Council of Kansas City (DTC), has launched the **Bridging Park & Market** study — an aspirational community enhancement project focusing on the River Market, Columbus Park, Route 9 and Independence Avenue. The goal is for residents and visitors to experience a more livable, safe and connected community that encompasses a more intuitive multimodal transportation system.

A self-guided online public open house will be available on the DTC website at <https://www.downtownkc.org/hwy9> from November 11 through November 25, 2020. This is an opportunity for the public to learn more about the concepts and share their input through public comment and what they believe are the most viable options based on the goal of creating a more livable and safe community in the future.

Specifically, the study is focused on the concept of bringing Route 9 to grade between I-70 and the Heart of America bridge over the Missouri River, and other unique options that enhance safety and mobility between these vibrant historic districts, and to reconnect Independence Avenue across Route 9. The catalyst for this study was born out of the Beyond the Loop study in 2018 that outlined this project as “Phase V: Bring Route 9 to Grade”.

This study also includes ways to change the current disjointed highway and street network into an intuitive design of interconnected roadways, freeways, sidewalks, transit and bicycle routes. This includes looking at ways to restore Independence Avenue connections to River Market and the Central Business District to repair an important, broken connection to east Kansas City.

The project team has been meeting with stakeholders and community associations in the study area to gather input to help build a more cohesive study that is informed by the public.

It is imperative that the **Bridging Park & Market** study reflects the desires of residents, businesses, and visitors to the area. We look forward to your participation. Again, the public can log on to <https://www.downtownkc.org/hwy9> to take part in the self-guided online public open house beginning November 11, 2020, and see project updates and other meeting announcements.



*Rendering of one of many proposed concepts from the study.*

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