

City of Fremont Update

Date: July 24, 2020

To: City Employees/ City Boards/ Mayor & City Council

Broken Pipe at Ronin Pool

The picture on the right is what is left of the plastic pipe joint that burst this summer causing the reopening of Ronin Pool to be delayed. Originally Ronin was scheduled to be open on June 15, but the opening was delayed until July 2, after fixing the broken pipe.

While all pipes are winterized each fall, it appears that this pipe had settled, creating a low spot for water to sit and freeze.



COVID-19 statistics. Please note that each underlined title is a hyperlink to that organization's website. Three Rivers Public Health Department's COVID-19 Dashboard contains additional statistics: <https://www.threeriverspublichealth.org/Coronavirus-Updates>

Dodge County **732** positive cases — **5,558** negative tests (tenth in state with positive cases)

Nebraska [Department of Health and Human Services Dashboard](#)
23,818 positive cases — **225,256** negative tests — **316** deaths

United States The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** [website](#):
4,024,492 cases — **143,868** deaths <https://www.cdc.gov/covid19>.

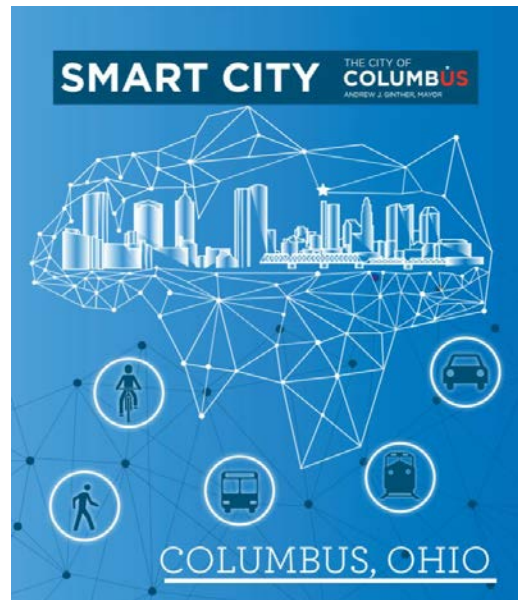
Globally [World Health Organization Situation Report](#)
15,296,926 cases — **628,903** deaths

[Johns Hopkins University of Medicine COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
15,628,936 cases — **636,262** deaths (U.S. ranks first, followed by Brazil in cases)

Smart City Technology Evolving

In 2016, Columbus, Ohio beat out 77 other cities to win a \$40 million federal grant to deploy and test different kinds of cutting-edge transportation technology, with the goal of tackling problems with traffic congestion and improving the quality of life across the city. A little over four years later, the Smart Columbus project is nearing its 2021 end date and several projects look promising.

One is the smart mobility hub. These hubs are interactive digital kiosks where people can access transportation like buses, app-based rides-booking services like Uber and bike-share bicycles, as well as wireless internet and real-time information about transit. Another project is called connected vehicle, where vehicles are equipped with on-board devices that will allow them to communicate with each other



and with traffic signals and other roadway infrastructure. The idea is to cut down on the risk of collisions and other hazards and make traffic signal timing more efficient.

The telephone was a research project originally, so Columbus is at the beginning of what very well could be described as a smart city of technology.

City Council Approves Bonds

In action last week, the City Council approved issuing bonds for the auditorium renovations and the SE Beltway, as well as approved the recommendation by the Utility and Infrastructure Board to refinance several utility bonds.

The \$2 million in auditorium bonds were approved by Fremont voters in 2019, before the renovations to the auditorium began. Now that renovation is nearly finished and bond rates are very low (less than 2%), it makes perfect sense to issue bonds to finance the project. The debt service on the bonds are repaid from property tax receipts.

The \$8 million in Highway Allocation Fund Pledge bonds is new debt to finance a portion of the City's contribution to the SE Beltway. The bonds will be repaid over five years with some of the money the City receives each year from the State for City road and street improvements. The interest rate on these bonds is also less than 2%.

The \$8 million in utility bonds is NOT new debt but simply refinancing old debt. Like refinancing the mortgage on your home, bonds with high interest rates are being refinanced with a bond with a lower interest rate (less than 2%). The savings to ratepayers will be \$1.2 million over the remaining life (eight years) of the bonds.

IT Department Life Cycling Equipment

The City's Information Technology Department (IT) has been life cycling (a process of replacing equipment before obsolescence or failure) some of the City's most critical computer and network equipment. Life cycling is planned and budgeted each year as part of the department's ongoing effort to replace and upgrade important computer and network equipment. The picture on the right is Michael Fu, IT Network Specialist, replacing one of the eight physical servers in the



server room at City Hall. In addition to the servers, more than 35 desktop and laptop computers, and approximately 15 switches are being life cycled. The equipment is scattered across many City buildings, including City Hall, Police Department, Fire Station, Utility Warehouse, Parks Maintenance Shop, Power Plant, and Water Treatment Plant.

The City's IT Department is the best. Our level of reliability is outstanding, which is a direct reflection of their competence. Thank you for keeping the City's equipment up to date!

There is no job so important and no service so urgent that we cannot take the time to do the work safely!