FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, January 16, 2019

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Library Acquires Property, Announces Plan for Branch Construction

Library Board Approves Purchase of Liberty, Mo., Property and Red Bridge Branch Plan

Greater Kansas City, MO – Last night, Mid-Continent Public Library’s Board of Trustees approved two measures that will advance progress of the Library’s ongoing Capital Improvement Plan. The first was the purchase of a six-acre property in Liberty, Mo., on the east side of Withers Road near the Liberty Community Center, which will serve as the new location for the replacement of the Liberty Branch. The current branch is located approximately a mile north on Kent Street.

The property will eventually be home to an 18,500-square-foot branch with a variety of upgraded amenities, including a community programming room for classes and forums, enclosed meeting/study rooms, and teen and children’s areas. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in late 2019, and the current Liberty Branch will remain open throughout construction.

“We’re very excited to finalize the purchase of this property,” said Steven V. Potter, MCPL Director and CEO. “The Liberty community has always been very supportive of the Library system, and we’re thrilled to be able to provide them with a modern Library facility.”

In addition to the property acquisition in Liberty, MCPL’s Board of Trustees approved the budget for the Library’s plan to renovate a building within the Red Bridge Shopping Center that will become the new home of its Red Bridge Branch. The Library had previously finalized a long-term lease with LANE4 Property Group on the property at 453B Red Bridge Road—adjacent to the Euston Hardware Store in a space previously occupied by a bowling alley. Construction will start this spring, and the new location will be open by the summer.

The new facility boasts 14,352 square feet—more than 2,300 larger than MCPL’s current Red Bridge location—as well as improved visibility from Red Bridge Road. The new Red Bridge Branch will include a community room, collaboration rooms, a children’s area, new furniture, new public computers, an outdoor seating area, and more. During construction, the current Red Bridge Branch will remain open.

Design work for the Library’s Capital Plan is being completed by Sapp Design Architects and Helix Architecture + Design with JE Dunn assuming responsibility for construction contractor management. More information about the Library's Capital Improvement Plan can be found at mymcpl.org/Community.

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Mid-Continent Public Library is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area, operating 31
branches and three Library-To-Go locations and serving more than 800,000 people in Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties. The Library strives to enrich our citizens and communities through expanding access to innovation, information, ideas, and inspiration. MCPL is a 2014 National Medal for Museum and Library Service winner. Connect with the Library on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.