

Wabash Avenue Visioning Study

PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #1

July 12, 2023

PARTICIPANTS:

- Duke Bennett, Mayor
- Josh Alsip, Director of Community Engagement Terre Haute Chamber
- Maitri Desai, City Planner, City of Terre Haute
- Ally Midgley –Executive Director, Art Spaces
- Marcus Maurer, City Engineer, City of Terre Haute
- Todd Nation – Terre Haute City Council, Downtown Business Owner
- Tennille Wanner – Terre Haute Convention Center
- Nick Jahn, VS Engineering
- Kenny Birk, VS Engineering
- Ron Taylor, TSWDG
- Scott Siefker, TSWDG
- Katie Clark, TSWDG (via Zoom)

Meeting Goal:

The purpose of this meeting was to kick off the Wabash Avenue planning and design process with the project Steering Committee. The design team prepared an outline of the project process and a draft project schedule which was shared during the meeting. The team provided an introductory overview presentation and presented a case study of the 4th Street “flex/curbless” street project in Huntington, Indiana. TSWDG led the committee in a series of discussion topics in order to better understand existing perceptions, uses and opportunities of the Wabash Avenue Street Corridor. Following the discussion, Steering Committee members participated in a field walk of the corridor with the project design team.

Meeting Summary:

1. Welcome & Introductions
General introductions were conducted to identify meeting participants including client team representatives, project Steering Committee representatives, and design team representatives.
2. Wabash Avenue Visioning Study Process & Goals
The TSWDG team began with a description of the Wabash Avenue visioning study process and the project timeline. The process is kicking off in July 2023 and is projected to wrap up with the final committee meeting and city council meeting in the late winter/spring of 2024. A brief visual summary of Wabash Avenue including a series of existing corridor images was presented as well in order to set the stage for the first visioning exercise discussion. Case study elements

from 4th Street in Huntingburg were presented and a broad discussion regarding strengths and opportunities along the corridor was facilitated.

Highlights of the tasks outlined as part of the project process as well as a summary of the issues identified as part of the initial SWOT discussion follows.

3. PROCESS OVERVIEW

01. Phase 1: Corridor Visioning

Goal: Identify and understand existing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and constraints and solicit public input regarding the potential of the Wabash Avenue corridor.

- *Two (2) Steering Committee Meetings;*
- *One (1) Business & Property Owner Meeting #1;*
- *Development of project branding;*
- *Launch of public outreach materials, including project website, promotional materials, mobile display and online survey;*
- *Visual Preference Survey; and*
- *Public Pop-up Event (potentially Miracle on 7th Street).*

02. Phase 2: Preliminary Corridor Concept Development

Goal: Develop an overall concept plan for Wabash Avenue to illustrate the design intent, materials and character desired for the streetscape corridor.

- *Steering Committee Meeting;*
- *Business & Property Owners Meeting #2;*
- *Public Meeting/Workshop;*
- *Conceptual Design Summary; and*
- *City Review Meeting.*

4. Stakeholder Project Goals

During the project introduction, Steering Committee members were encouraged to share their goal for what the Wabash Avenue visioning project could help identify or prioritize. A summary of those issues included:

- Make the corridor more pedestrian friendly.
- Improve stormwater management.
- Add additional economic impact through events and programming.
- Inclusion of the arts along the corridor.
- Encourage and identify areas for business & residential development.
- Make the corridor a “complete street.”
- Create a vibrant and pedestrian friendly environment.
- Incorporate green infrastructure.
- Apply a consistent infrastructure treatment.
- Capitalize on the proximity to ISU students as an economic driver, overcoming the Cherry Street invisible boundary.
- Encourage additional retail.
- Accommodate ISU walk/parade routes.

5. Stakeholder Issue Identification

Steering Committee members were instructed to identify general issues as related to the corridor. A summary of those issues included the following:

- Focal area should be 7th to 9th Street.
- Engagement of business outside the focal area.
- 1st Phase should establish critical mass to build moment and grow the project.
- Hulman Building, Indiana Theatre, Hippadrome connections to corridor.
- Design language could be a more traditional and less trendy, to compliment both the contemporary and historic context of the architecture along the corridor.
- Importance of art inclusion.
- Technology expansion with public WiFi potential.
- How do you engage people in the spaces, encourage them to spend time between dinner at a restaurant along the corridor and going to their hotel?
- Develop cohesive barricade system – current system is a challenge/disliked.
- Connect and/or expand plaza intersection at Convention Center.
- Better function for regular scheduled closures for certain programming events.
- Play up authenticity of structures with classic and traditional design.
- Accommodation of water utility below grade improvements
- Underground vaults may be infrastructure challenge.
- Parking perception issues and parking lot access, availability and cost.
- Bank ATM access during construction and final design.
- Balance of street trees for shade and business visibility.
- Design to accommodate large programming events, such as Bluesfest.

6. Corridor Walking Tour

Following the group discussion, a walking tour was facilitated for members of the steering committee and design team along the corridor.

7. Questions & Next Steps

The design team will begin to craft the branding and engagement strategy as well as document the existing site inventory thorough photographic and mapping study of the corridor.

Upcoming Committee Meetings & Engagement Opportunities:

- Steering Committee Meeting #2 – August 16, 2023
- Business & Property Owner Meeting #1 – September 28, 2023