

# Iowa's Living Roadways Community Visioning 2016

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**Community: University Heights**  
**Minutes by Trees Forever Field Coordinator: Hannah Howard**  
**Date and Time: Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> 4 PM**  
**Meeting Length: 4.5 Hours**  
**Location: The University Club**  
**Meeting Number and Title: #8 Design Workshop**

**Number of community members in attendance:** 12 throughout workshop, 16 present at presentation (21 community members total)

**Number of committee members in attendance:** 8

**Names of committee members in attendance:** Virginia Miller, Karen Drake, Sara O'Sullivan, Michael Gay, Martha Terry, Dotti Maher, Janis Deyak, Silvia Quezada, Hannah Howard (Trees Forever)

## **Meeting Summary:**

From 4 to 7 pm 12 community members came throughout the design workshop to provide feedback on the rough draft of design concepts and 16 people were present to listen to the formal presentation of these design concepts at the end of the workshop. Overall there was good community turnout, positive responses and a lot of useful feedback.

At the workshop, Meg and her design team prepared draft design concepts of the following projects in University Heights: comprehensive sidewalk and lighting plan, Ernest Horn Elementary sidewalk west connector, lighting for pedestrians and vehicles, stormwater improvements, Triangle Park improvements, community entryway signage, wayfinding signage, and comprehensive Melrose Avenue redesign with bike lanes.

A series of design concepts were created as options for the community entryway signage. Due to the limitation of right of way available for the sign, Meg created upright signage connected to pillars. The majority of comments rated a combination of #3 and #1 or #2 being their favorite which combined the limestone pillar shown in designs #1 or #2 with #3's gray sign showing the tree logo. To ensure that those driving through the city understand that this is a city and not a neighborhood, "City of.." and "Est. 1935" will be added to the signs. There was a question regarding whether a new logo could be developed by Meg for the city. However, as this was not identified as a goal in the goal setting process and the amount of time required for such a project, it cannot be accomplished during the visioning process. These are simply concepts and a different logo could be used on this signage when it comes time to implement them. Meg will modify the signage designs and Hannah will email these designs to all of the design workshop and presentation participants asking for feedback and comments. As for the directional signage, the brown signage with the green caps was the favorite option.

Triangle Park was also a favorite concept throughout the design workshop. Design workshop participants liked the updated shelter and amenities as a way to showcase University Heights along Melrose Ave. However, as there is no city staff available to

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maintain the space in the future, low maintenance plantings are preferred. Participants also liked the bollard lighting shown in the concepts although Meg did point out that it is an expensive option. There was also concern about not enough lighting in addition to conflicting concerns about too much light pollution from the newly installed LED signs. As there is no city staff to care for the planters proposed on the designed lights, Meg will remove those from the designs.

Throughout the day there was a lot of support for the Horn sidewalk connector. After discussion, the committee members thought it best that Meg does not include the sidewalk shown on Emerald Street as there are conflicts with city limits and Iowa City management. Silvia, Martha and Janis volunteered to work with the school to discuss the design concepts with them. Although Horn Elementary has a lot of drainage issues, the proposed bioswales will most likely be a problem by causing a choking point with the buses and after school traffic. Meg will revise those design concepts accordingly. In addition to the bioswales near Horn, there was also general concern regarding the bioswales and rain gardens with the snow plowing.

Everyone present liked the colored University Heights logo along the roadway marking the city limits along Melrose Avenue. Throughout the design workshop there was a lot of positive feedback regarding the proposed bike lanes. Most comments mentioned option #2 as being the preferred design. During the presentation someone mentioned the possibility of including additional paint on the bike lanes to increase safety and awareness to drivers.

However, these bike lanes conflict with the proposed roundabout at the intersection of Melrose and Koser. At the public presentation there was much concern voiced regarding how this roundabout would affect pedestrians and the proposed bike lanes. Additionally, due to the large amount of area needed for it the roundabout would make access to nearby homes and Stella's difficult as well as eliminating Triangle Park. The majority present voiced they would not like to see plans proceed with the roundabout, so Meg will no longer include the roundabout within the design concepts.

**Next Meeting:** Preliminary Presentation of Design Concepts Monday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 to 8 pm at city hall.