

# 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: Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 6PM**  
**Meeting Length: 1.5 Hours**  
**Location: The University Club**  
**Meeting Number and Title: #6 Pre Goal Setting Meeting**

**Number of committee members in attendance: 5**

**Names of committee members in attendance:** Virginia Miller, Sara O'Sullivan, Martha Terry, Dotti Maher, Nancy Barth, Hannah Howard (Trees Forever), Meg Flenker (Flenker Land Architects)

**Meeting Summary:**

The meeting began with introductions of Meg to the committee members. The majority of the meeting was spent discussing the information gathered through the survey and the TAB Workshop shown on a series of large posters/boards made by Iowa State.

The committee watched the video created by Iowa State University showing the results gathered by the mailed out survey. The video showed time lapses of the data for each survey question being compiled onto separate maps. The video can be found here on YouTube.com: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d72itZEGcXQ>

The survey boards had a lot of really great information broken down in a series of nine boards. The survey was extremely successful due to a response rate of 48.8%! Of the adjusted sample size (338), 165 people returned the surveys. Committee members were encouraged to hear that more than 50% of residents surveyed said that they would be willing to help with the visioning process/projects. 45.9% would donate time and money, 43% would donate time and 10.8% would be willing to donate money. When asked what types of enhancements were important to them, safer routes to school was the most important, followed by more physical activity opportunities, more accessibility for seniors, and enhancing the downtown streetscape.

It was identified that most survey participants commute within University Heights or go to Iowa City for work and use Koser and Melrose Avenue. Survey participants were also asked how often they walk, bike and run around town and to identify their routes. A large majority of participants walk daily (27.8%), weekly (26.5%) and monthly (24.1%) typically using routes on Melrose, Koser, Highland and Golfview. Over 50% of the participants bike using the same street routes as walkers (minus Golfview), with 30% of that being on a daily to weekly basis. Of the 49% of survey participants that run, only 15.5% run weekly. However, runners preferred to take less busy streets which differed from the walking and biking routes.

To review the Transportation Assets and Barriers Workshop Boards, Hannah gave an overview of the first two boards with general information, while each committee member present picked a board to review and summarize the information to everyone else. The most common undesirable quality or feature in University Heights was identified as

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traffic by all focus groups at the workshop, followed by lack of lighting, flooding and ice and parking. The most desired improvements were identified as connected sidewalks, bike lanes, benches, and community signage. During the workshop, focus group participants identified many poor pedestrian connections which were mainly located in the SW corner of town. The assets around the community were identified as the wide sidewalks on Melrose and Sunset, the walking path through the woods north of town and shaded streets.

Future meeting time and locations were discussed for the upcoming design workshop and public presentation of the final designs. Everyone agreed that the best time of day for the design workshop would be 4 to 7 pm to allow community members to stop in after work. The public presentation of the drafted design concepts will follow at 7 pm. The public presentation of the final design concepts, which will take place at some point later in the summer, is an event that typically takes place during another community event which draws a lot of people. Tentatively, the group decided that the presentation should take place at the University Heights Farmer's Market. The market takes place the first Tuesday of every month through October, the date is yet to be determined.

The meeting adjourned around 7:30 pm with a reminder of the importance of the goal setting meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will decide the projects that will come out of the visioning process, so it will be important to have a majority of the committee present.

**Next Meeting:** Goal Setting Meeting, June 9<sup>th</sup> at Oaknoll.