

Colfax's Barriers: Common Factors

The analysis of barriers is a synthesis of the feedback we received from the five transportation user groups. The steering committee is not considered a user group, but rather an amalgamation of all user types. Although not shown on an individual map, input from the steering committee is incorporated into the maps of all five of the transportation user groups.

Street Barriers

Repairing city streets is the top priority among all user types. Division Street and League Road came up repeatedly during discussions because they are the main routes to the schools in town and have been battered by bus traffic and construction vehicles. Howard and Front Streets were also identified as being rough. League Road and W Broadway are considered too narrow.

Sidewalk Barriers

All focus groups said that inconsistent, broken, and uneven sidewalks make getting around town difficult, especially for walkers. The parents worry about kids walking in the street, especially on Division Street, because the hill makes it hard for drivers to see them. Actives and youth noted that Legion Road has no sidewalks; kids use this route frequently to get to the high school and the pool. The parents and senior and mobility-impaired groups feel that the sidewalks around the elementary school are some of the worst in town and are a top priority for repair. Adult groups mentioned the lack of curb ramps at many intersections.

Topography

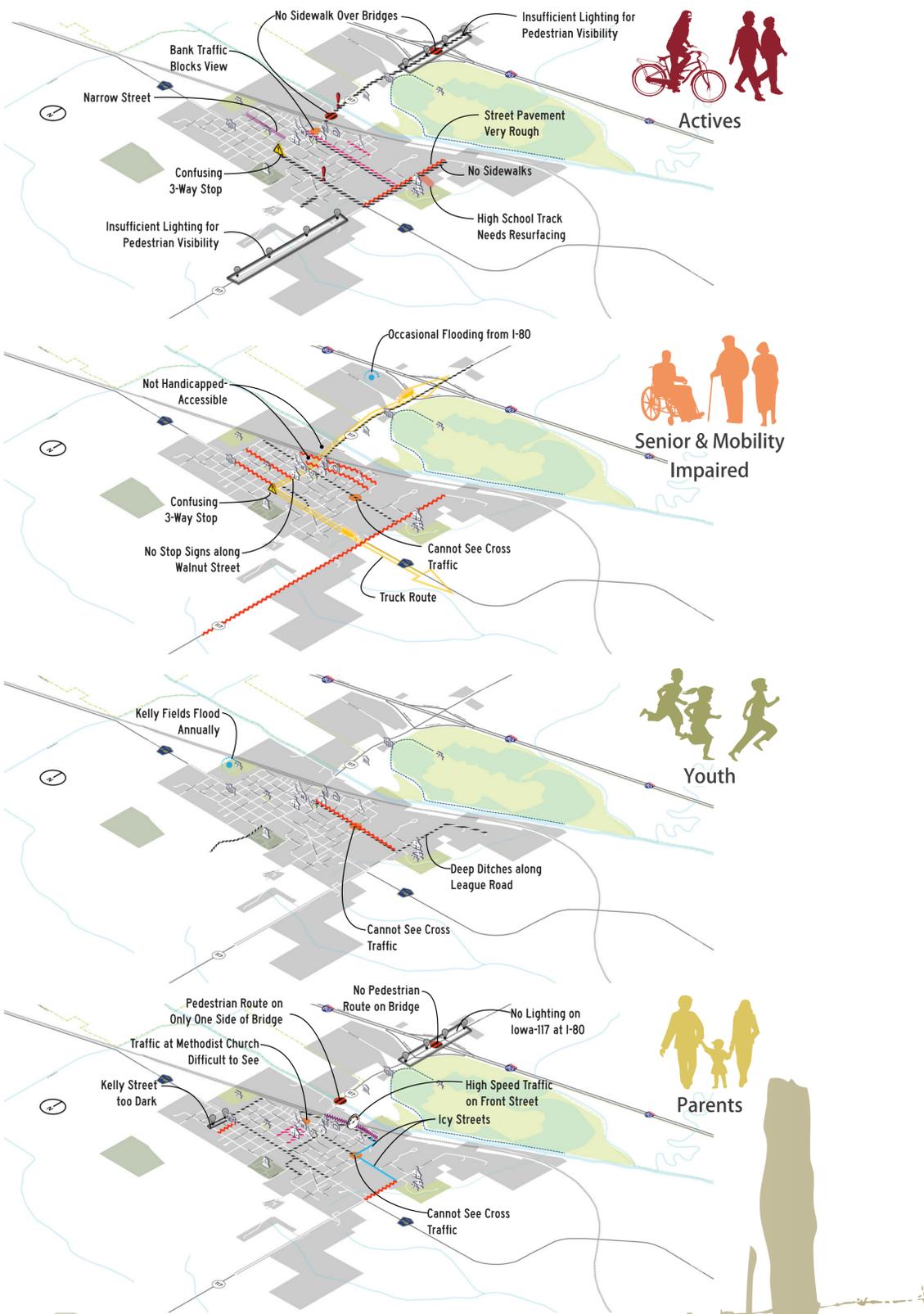
The hills in Colfax are a challenge for both vehicular and non-vehicular traffic. The actives and senior and mobility-impaired groups tend to avoid the hills, walking "the flats" on the west side of town. Some hills make it difficult to see oncoming traffic at several intersections. The senior and mobility impaired, parents, and youth described the intersection of Oak Park Avenue and Division Street as being difficult to navigate due to steep slopes. The parents group tries to avoid Oak Park Avenue and Division Street in winter because they become slick and it can be difficult to pick up enough momentum to get up the hill, and just as difficult to stop at the intersection.

Lighting

Actives and parents said that the lack of lighting at the I-80 interchange is a safety issue. Without lighting, it is hard to see McDonald's employees wearing their black uniforms walking to and from work. Actives think the poor lighting on Highway 117 south of County Road F48W makes walking and driving a challenge.

Traffic

Heavy semi traffic through Colfax creates some problems. Walnut Street is too narrow for trucks to turn onto State Street and oncoming vehicles often need to back up. Highway 117 through town has no stops so that semis can maintain momentum to climb the hills. The result is several three-way stops that are confusing to people from out of town.



Colfax

Transportation Assets and Barriers | Analysis of Barriers