

# Iowa's Living Roadways Community Visioning 2016

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**Community:** Colfax

**Minutes by Trees Forever Field Coordinator:** Leslie Berckes

**Date and Time:** July 11, 2016; 10:30am-7:00pm

**Meeting Length:** 8.5 hrs

**Location:** Colfax Public Library

**Design Workshop**

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

**Visioning Committee Members Attending:** Pete Parvi, Linda Darrock, Jeff Davidson, Doug Garrett, Dave Mast Leslie Berckes (Trees Forever), Bruce Niedermyer and Sara Davids (RDG)

## **Summary:**

The Design Workshop day started with a tour of the community. On the tour were Pete, Linda, Dave, and Doug plus the design team and Leslie. Committee members present took the design team and Leslie to the areas in which goals were set. This included:

- Entryway off of I80 – the committee talked with the design team about the existing entryway sign and how the new Quarry Springs Park will affect the entrance into town. Discussion also revolved around lighting off of I80 and beautification efforts.
- Hwy 117 corridor – the committee talked about wants and needs for improving this stretch of road from the interstate to downtown including adding pedestrian amenities (especially to get people out to Quarry Spring Park) and to make it an appealing area to drive along.
- Downtown – the committee talked about specific traffic and pedestrian issues in the downtown area and ways they would like to see those improved. They also discussed ways to beautify the area.
- Safe routes to school and recreational route – the committee discussed sidewalk issues throughout town and how that makes it difficult for kids to walk to school. The lack of sidewalk connection also effect pedestrian's ability to get around town and recreate. The design team discussed areas where a dedicated safe route to school and recreation route could occur.
- Crossing on Old Hwy 6 at soccer fields – the committee told the with the design team how people will park at the city's maintenance garage and walk across old Hwy 6 to get to the soccer fields. Something that would call attention to this area would make it safer for pedestrians and drivers as they go through the area.

After the tour, the design team setup at the Colfax Public Library. The Transportation Assets and Barriers workshop posters, bioregional maps, and the list of project goals were available for people to review to provide some context for how the projects were selected. A couple people stopped by in the afternoon to visit with the design team and see work in progress. At 6:30pm people were invited to come for an end of the day presentation. Between the workshop held during the day and the presentation, eight people attended. Leslie introduced the Visioning process to the group and discussed the next steps of the process. Bruce next shared the projects that they had worked on during the day, including:

- Downtown improvements – Bruce showed the group some initial ideas for improvements in the downtown area that included bump outs to help pedestrians crossing the street and wider sidewalks that would give pedestrians more room. Suggestions were also offered to help beautify the area.
- Entrance off Interstate 80 – Bruce presented an initial design to beautify the entrance off I80 and that would add lighting to the area to keep pedestrians and motorist safe.

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- Safe crossing on old Hwy 6 – the design team presented an initial design concept to improve the safety of pedestrians crossing from the city maintenance garage to the soccer fields. This includes a pedestrian activated cross walk sign with lights and an enhanced pedestrian crosswalk.

It was stressed that this is just the beginning of the design process and much more work will be done to further develop the concepts. The design team asked for feedback and comments. People present felt the design team was on the right track and offered a few suggestions about how to further address pedestrian comfort and safety throughout town. The next meeting will be the preliminary presentation of designs where committee members can see the near final conceptual designs and provide feedback before the final designs are finished by the design team.

### Upcoming Meetings

- Preliminary Review of Designs (Just committee members to attend. This is where the committee will get a sneak peek as the final designs and can give input) – **July 27<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm, United Methodist Church**
  - Public Presentation of Designs (Entire community invited to attend. Committee members should be there so that they can discuss the designs with community members) – **TBD**
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