

Sycamore Avenue Corridor Enhancements

Sycamore Avenue serves as the primary thoroughfare for Garrison and offers ample opportunities for incorporating enhancements that can improve safety, accessibility, way-finding and beautification. During the focus groups, some residents expressed concern about the large number of semis and highway traffic that move through town at high speeds along Sycamore Avenue. Pedestrians feel threatened, especially children who ride their bikes or walk to parks and bus stops from one side of town to the other and need to cross this busy street.

The design team took a “complete streets” approach in developing concepts for the Sycamore Avenue corridor as well as for concepts developed for other priority areas. In simplified terms, a “complete street” means that the street is designed and operated to enable safe accesses for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists of all ages and abilities.

The primary goals for the Sycamore Avenue Corridor included improving accessibility and safety, improving both visual and physical connectivity and identity, and improving the aesthetics.

Following are the major elements proposed:

Lighting Treatments. To help with corridor identity and safety additional lighting is proposed. Vehicular lighting is proposed, at minimum, to be located at all intersections along the corridor; the light standards can remain as the existing cobra lighting on wood poles. However, due to the high visibility of the Main and Sycamore intersection decorative vehicular lighting is recommended. Pedestrian lighting is proposed all along the corridor to light the sidewalks. Decorative vehicular and pedestrian lighting with “down lighting” is proposed due its direct light path. Affixed to these lights are the community banners. Refer to board 7 for more detail.

Signage. Through the use of standardized traffic control and warning signs, corridor users are able to quickly understand the traffic patterns of Sycamore Avenue. The main additional signs are warning signs for the new pedestrian crossings. Control signs would be added if a new traffic pattern is chosen along Main Street; see board 9. Custom way-finding signage

would be used throughout the corridor to direct visitors to civic buildings and public spaces and can be seen in detail on board 7.

Crosswalks. Well-defined painted crosswalks that utilize reflective paint help alert both pedestrians and motorists to designated crossings, which helps improve safety.

Plantings. Plantings are proposed to add visual appeal and interest to specific areas along the corridor. At the Main Street intersection, colorful annual plantings are illustrated with ornamental perennial grasses in adjacent planting areas. In other parts of the corridor plantings can include new trees, new turf grass, or native perennial plantings in the curb strips to help with water infiltration. Due to their location, all plants must be salt tolerant.

ADA Accessibility. New sidewalks that meet ADA requirements will help all pedestrians access town amenities. All crosswalks are shown with ADA-compliant ramps to the street and detectable warning strips.

Conceptual photo edit 2 illustrates the incorporation of way-finding signage, lighting treatments, community banners, and a pedestrian warning sign. Conceptual photo edit 3 shows a new pedestrian crossing at the Maple Street intersection with painted crosswalks and activation devices for pedestrians and flashing beacon warning signs for motorists. Conceptual photo edit 4 illustrates measures to highlight the Main Street intersection, which include lighting treatments, community banners, painted crosswalks, accent plantings, and underground utilities. More details of the community identity elements can be found on board 7. To see the Downtown Enhancement concepts and associated elements refer to boards 9-11.



Example of activation device and warning signal.



Location map.



Sycamore Avenue existing conditions on north end of town.



Conceptual photo edit 2.



Sycamore Avenue existing conditions at intersection with Maple Street.



Conceptual photo edit 3.



Sycamore Avenue existing conditions at intersection with Main Street.



Conceptual photo edit 4.

Garrison

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Iowa Department of Transportation Trees Forever ISU Landscape Architecture Extension ISU Extension Community and Economic Development

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