



Transportation Inventory

Knowledge of the transportation systems in and around a community is critical for sustainable transportation enhancement planning. Transportation systems include paved and unpaved roadways, pedestrian and bike trails, waterways, and railroad lines or railbeds from abandoned railroad lines and airports.

The Lester visioning design team met with DOT personnel and local officials to identify existing, past, and future transportation systems in the area and to discuss possible transportation related restraints and opportunities that could potentially affect project areas.

Lester, population 290, lies off Highway 9 in Lyon County. The rural atmosphere with no signage is conducive to vehicles speeding by the only exit. This exit from Highway 9 is the location of the town's only gas/convenience store. Truck parking for the store blocks the visibility for motorists entering Highway 9 from Clinton Street. Opposite the exit is a turning lane on the south side of the highway for County Road K30, which is used by vehicles as a passing lane to further complicate this busy intersection. The east-west direction of Highway 9 coupled with an overpass creates visibility issues, especially with early morning sunlight. Focus group participants described the intersection as being confusing and causing many accidents (reference: barriers, board 3d).

The community values the jobs at the elevator created by such an active railroad (reference: assets, board 3e) but the railroad divides the community. Both neighborhoods have

important community destinations. The railroad has been contacted to fix the one main crossing on Clinton Street which has deteriorated. The design team discussed the benefits of a pedestrian safe crossing with the members in attendance.

Walking is a popular mode of transportation in the community. Walking on the streets is viewed as safe by many in Lester. A disconnected residential development lies on the south-east side of Lester on Highway 9. The development is isolated from Lester by private property and can only be accessed by car or walking on Highway 9. The community would like a trail connecting the two neighborhoods.

Trains frequently block the route for emergency management services located on 5th Street causing concern for access to this isolated neighborhood and other areas within Lester and Lyon county. A proposed street near Gage Drive off Highway 9 would provide a second exit/entrance to the community and could be used as a necessary route for emergency management services.

Clinton and Main Streets are the main thoroughfare through town and will be reconstructed by the County in 2018 including ADA accessibility on Main Street, the community's business district. Roy G. Hoogeveen Field is a popular destination but lacks a formal entrance and parking. During the focus group meeting, it was noted as having poor access and no signage (reference: barriers, board 3d). The city is working on a possible entrance location from Clinton Street,



Intersection of Highway 9 and County Road K30 causes many accidents and is viewed as a barrier (Reference: barriers, board 3d)



Existing entrance sign on Clinton Street



An active railroad bisects the community and blocks traffic creating issues for Fire and Rescue (Reference: barriers, board 3d)



Meadowview housing development is an asset to the community (Reference: assets, board 3e)



The businesses on Main Street are an asset to the community (Reference: assets, board 3e) but they need accessible entrances. Reconstruction of Main Street is being completed by the County in 2018 and includes ADA accessibility.

Lester

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