

Riverfront Gateways and Entryways

Residents identified the enhancement of the downtown riverfront streetscape as one of their main priorities. Currently, the three access points to the riverfront and downtown (River Drive) are not very noticeable to the approximately 3,580 motorists who travel daily through Princeton along Hwy. 67 / Great River Road (refer to Iowa DOT 2018 ADT count).

Gateway Monument

In order to capture the attention of passersby, large columnar gateway monuments are proposed to be located at each of the three access points: Lost Grove Road (shown in concept 11a), Clay Street (see board 12) and Chestnut Street, all other streets dead end at the railroad. All of the gateway monuments are envisioned to be the same style at each access point in order to create continuity and strengthen identity. All three gateway monument options proposed on board 8 utilize limestone and incorporate an anchor medallion as well as the Princeton blue color to reinforce Princeton's branding and identity. As can be seen in concept 11a, the large scale of the monuments are necessary to create the impact needed to draw attention of motorists. It is intended that the monuments would be lit at night. The lettering and anchor medallion on the monuments are recommended to be raised and back-lit for nighttime visibility and easy reading.

As with all proposed enhancements, the gateway monuments would be located so that they do not obstruct visibility of motorists and pedestrians at the roadway and railway intersections.

Defining Space & Improving Circulation

The River Drive corridor is a mixture of residential, commercial, and open greenspace. In some areas the beginning and ending of private space and public space/public right-of-way boundaries becomes blurred and confusing, especially due to the wide width of the existing right-of-way. The wide right-of-way encompasses some areas that might appear to be or even thought of as privately owned. The proposed streetscape enhancements shown on this and the following boards will assist in creating better spatial definitions as well as enhance the aesthetics of the public spaces/right-of-way.

As part of defining space, it is also necessary to define edges. Concept 11b illustrates the enhancements proposed to define the edge of the roadway and control the ingress/egress access to the adjacent River Drive. Controlled access not only improves circulation and safety, but it helps eliminate excess pavement. The elimination of excess pavement reduces storm water runoff which in turn helps with water quality. By replacing pavement with permeable options such as grass, or grass grids, and incorporating more trees, more infiltration of water occurs and the temperature of storm water runoff is reduced, as well as the overall heat that contributes to the heat island effect. Trees also have a positive impact to air quality.



Existing: Photo taken at the intersection of Lost Grove Road and Hwy. 67, looking from the west side of Hwy. 67 toward the east



Existing: Photo taken at northern end of River Drive, just to the west of its intersection with Lost Grove Road and is looking northerly along River Drive



Concept 11a: Riverfront gateway enhancements include decorative pavement for crosswalks, gateway monument (option A3), decorative lighting (candella style), ADA compliant sidewalks



Concept 11b: River Drive enhancements include landscaping, decorative lighting (candella style), way-finding signage, MRT trail, edge definition and improved accessibility and

Concept Elements:

- Columnar gateway monuments draw attention to and clearly identifies the entrances into the downtown and riverfront
- Decorative crosswalk pavement provides a functional, decorative accent
- ADA compliant sidewalks and ramps improve accessibility
- Decorative lighting (Candela style) improves safety, aesthetics, and contributes to place-making
- Burial of overhead utilities enhance aesthetics
- Way-finding signage improves visitor experience & strengthens identity
- Street trees at end of Lost Grove Road on River Drive screen and direct views

Concepts Elements:

- Decorative lighting (Candela style) improves aesthetics and safety and contributes to place-making
- Decorative crosswalk pavement provides a functional, decorative accent
- ADA compliant sidewalks and ramps improve accessibility
- Way-finding signage improves visitor experience & strengthens identity
- Sharrow (Shared roadway) provides safe, designated access of riverfront
- Burial of overhead utilities improve aesthetics
- Street trees provide shade to pedestrians, screen and direct views
- Grass boulevards enhance the streetscape, provide edge definition and reduce storm water runoff as well as improve storm water quality