



Design workshop (June 29, 2023): Community members review precedent boards and preliminary concepts and provide their input during the design workshop that was held during the Vinton Farmers Market

Program Overview

The city of Vinton is one of 10 communities selected to participate in the 2023 Iowa’s Living Roadways Community Visioning Program.

The program, which selects communities through a competitive application process, provides professional planning and design assistance along transportation corridors to small Iowa communities (less than 10,000 residents).

Visioning Program Goals:

- Develop a conceptual plan and implementation strategies alongside local community residents.
- Enhance the natural, cultural and visual resources existing within communities.
- Assist local communities in using external funds as leverage for transportation corridor enhancement.

Each visioning community works through a planning process consisting of four phases of concept development:

1. Program initiation
2. Needs assessment and goal setting
3. Development of a concept plan
4. Implementation and sustained action

Vinton Program Overview



Design Workshop (June 29, 2023): A community member listens to an explanation of various intersection treatments to aid in traffic calming

Each visioning community is represented by a steering committee of local residents and stakeholders who take part in a series of meetings that are facilitated by field coordinators from Trees Forever.

Iowa State University’s Department of Landscape Architecture and ISU Extension and Outreach, of which Community Visioning is part, manage the visioning process and the design team. In addition, ISU project staff and interns conduct a bioregional assessment and public input sessions, including transportation assets and barriers (TAB) focus groups, and a random-sample survey. Iowa State University, along with Trees Forever and the Iowa Department of Transportation, select private-sector Professional Landscape Architects (PLA) to be part of the design team and work with the various communities in creating their “community vision” and transportation enhancement plan.

Iowa State University processes the information collected from the focus groups and surveys and provides the data to the steering committee and design team for their use in developing community-centered transportation enhancements based on the needs and desires expressed by residents participating in the focus groups and the public design workshop.

The Community Visioning program is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Transportation.



Design Workshop (June 29, 2023): Community members use chalk to express what they believe makes Vinton a great place in which to live

Community Goals

The steering committee identified a number of goals and priority areas during the visioning process. These goals and priorities were reflective of what residents identified during their participation in the TAB workshops. The community goals focused on four main initiatives:

- Improve pedestrian connectivity and accessibility
- Implement branded way-finding to enhance, the community’s identity, user experience and streetscape aesthetics
- Utilize traffic-calming/control methods to assist in improving both vehicular and pedestrian safety and circulation
- Enhance the Vinton trail system by extending it to connect to both local and regional trails and adding additional site amenities such as benches and shade trees to improve user experience

Refer to board 5, “What, Where, & Why,” for further details related to the main community goals summarized above.

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 Iowa State University | Trees Forever | Iowa Department of Transportation



Design Workshop (June 29, 2023): Community members use Wiki Sticks to layout desired routes for new sidewalks, trails, and safe routes to school

Capturing the Vinton Vision

Based on the needs and desires of the local residents, as well as a detailed inventory of community resources, the design team developed transportation-based community improvement project concepts, which are illustrated in the following set of presentation boards:

1. Program Overview
2. Bioregional Assessments
3. Transportation Assets and Barriers
4. Transportation Inventory & Analysis
5. What, Where, & Why
6. Concept Plan
7. Community Identity
8. Safety & Traffic -Calming/Control
9. Connectivity & Accessibility
10. Trail Extension + Enhancements
11. Implementation

