



Iowa City Gateway

Pre-Design Public Meeting

A pre-design public meeting was held from 4 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at the Iowa City Public Library, with a presentation at 5:30 p.m. More than 100 residents participated in the meeting.

Meeting publicity: Postcards were mailed to the nearly 2,000 name project database, e-mails were sent to residents who had expressed an interest in the project, a press release was distributed and meeting information was posted on both the project and City web site.

Meeting content: Participants were shown to two stations, with roll plots and exhibits showing conceptual plans for the project. Their comments were noted on flip charts, and meeting participants were encouraged to fill out comment forms.

The presentation included an overview of the project and its progress to date.

Comments: Copies of the comments captured on flip charts and completed comment forms follow.

Key themes included:

- The importance of protecting or improving bike and pedestrian access throughout the corridor.
- The desire to keep the corridor “green” by protecting the river, trees and overall natural aspects.
- Concerns about pedestrian and traffic safety.
- Concerns about accommodating rush-hour and event traffic.
- Concerns about protecting historic structures.



Iowa City Gateway Pre Design Public Meeting February 25, 2014

Public Comment Summary

1102 N. Dubuque

Comment

- 1 Fill from cliffs to road desired

Aesthetics

Comment

- 1 Concerns about view of wall from River and City Park
- 6 Gateway marking entrance to Iowa City
- 4 Improved landscaping
- 13 Keep view of river, trees and park
- 1 River - minimize retaining wall and vegetation removal, minimize channelization

Bridge

Comment

- 1 4 lanes only
- 3 5 lanes - dual left needed
- 1 Light bridge
- 1 Lighting needed underneath
- 1 Make vagrant repellent
- 1 Minimize homeless/squatter habitat under new bridge
- 1 Minimize/limit fishing under bridge to keep homeless away from trail ramps under bridge
- 1 Raise west approach

Brown Street

Comment

- 2 Needs left turn lane/intersection improvements

City Park

Comment

- 3 Bench seating from Dubuque Street to river
- 2 Need floodable amphitheater along crew race river and Shakespeare theater
- 1 Should be allowed to flood

Construction Period

Comment

- 1 Access to Hancher needed
- 1 Construction delays and impact on elementary school

Iowa City Gateway
 Pre-Design Public Meeting – February 25, 2014
 Comment Summary

Construction Period

Comment

- 1 Eliminate left turns from Kimball during construction
- 2 Keep access open, especially for biking/walking
- 2 Keep Dubuque open during construction
- 5 Make as short as possible
- 1 Meet or exceed standards to protect against construction impacts like sedimentation
- 1 Need careful phasing with Downtown Streetscape and other projects
- 1 Noise concerns
- 1 Temporary entrance for Lower City Park - not through neighborhood

Corridor Design

Comment

- 3 12' lanes needed
- 1 3 lanes needed south of Park
- 8 Avoid closures due to flooding
- 1 Biking or walking near traffic is intimidating, keep parkway feeling
- 1 Concerns about increased traffic with additional lanes
- 3 Design for the community, not for the few
- 1 Dubuque Street should stay at least as wide as it is
- 3 Focus more on forms of transportation other than vehicles
- 1 Good access, regardless of weather, is important
- 3 Improve traffic flow
- 2 Incorporate graceful curves
- 1 Landscape for safety/create clear sight lines
- 1 Lane widths are important to keep traffic moving
- 1 Make lanes as wide as possible
- 1 Make sure medians are wide enough to accommodate left turn traffic
- 1 Minimize footprint further
- 1 Minimize impacts on historic properties
- 3 Minimize lane widths
- 1 Need "Complete Streets" approach
- 1 Need at least 4 lanes on Dubuque, corridor is already congested during rush hour
- 4 Safety is important
- 1 Scale to City, not I-80
- 4 Supportive of plan presented

Corridor Design

Comment

- 1 Traffic in the corridor will only increase
- 1 We can live with a few days of flooding, but not with a Interstate exit ramp through the neighborhood

Iowa City Gateway
 Pre-Design Public Meeting – February 25, 2014
 Comment Summary

Driveway Access

Comment

- 1 Concerns about grading
- 2 Shift NB lanes west

Flooding

Comment

- 1 2 100-year floods in 30 years; Idlewild neighborhood poorly planned in terms of potential flooding
- 1 Better flood control, allowing more water to be released without flooding PVT
- 1 Need coordination with USACE

Foster Road

Comment

- 1 Concerns about access during flooding
- 1 Needs to be raised

Future Needs

Comment

- 1 Education about river function, water quality and aquifers

Green Corridor

Comment

- 1 5:1 slopes match feel of today's corridor; better infiltration
- 2 Allow for Swallow nesting
- 1 Keep trees in City Park
- 1 Keep trees on bluffs
- 1 Keep wetlands local
- 1 Make city more sustainable, healthy and beautiful
- 1 Make sure sufficient funding to allow for mitigation of impacts to the river and restoration of wetlands
- 1 Median plantings need to be more than turf grasses
- 1 Minimize channelization/preserve and increase health of the river
- 1 Minimize water runoff; use permeable pavers
- 1 Native grasses for retention of water and soil
- 1 Ongoing commitment to renew and improve the health of the river; I would like to safely swim in the river
- 1 Pastoral landscape by Project Green is very important
- 2 River health and function
- 1 River is source of drinking water, recreation
- 1 Some cities have colorful, vibrant plantings
- 1 Storm water infiltration, bio swales, pervious paving in bike/ped paths
- 1 Street trees in parkway

Iowa City Gateway
Pre-Design Public Meeting – February 25, 2014
Comment Summary

Green Corridor

Comment

- 1 Trees are part of riparian corridor, not just aesthetics
- 1 Wetlands removed need to be replaced; keep benefit local
- 1 Would like permeable pavement

I-80

Comment

- 1 Plans for business park is not what I would like to see.

Kimball

Comment

- 3 Concerns about drainage on south side of Kimball
- 1 Traffic signal needed
- 1 Widen if possible

Manville Heights

Comment

- 1 Need pedestrian bridge from dog park

Normandy Drive

Comment

- 2 Do not open to City Park
- 1 Remove Prairie Grass

Park Road

Comment

- 1 Need street lights

Paths/Sidewalks

Comment

- 1 10' west side, eliminate Ridge to Foster
- 1 4' on east side between Kimball and Brown
- 1 6' - 8' on west side
- 2 8 foot needed
- 1 Add bike lane from Foster Road into Downtown
- 6 Add crosswalk at Park Road

Paths/Sidewalks

Comment

- 2 As wide as possible
- 2 Bike friendly
- 3 Blue Zone status being sought, need good bike/ped trails

Iowa City Gateway
 Pre-Design Public Meeting – February 25, 2014
 Comment Summary

- 2 Concerns about snow removal equipment size
- 1 Connect to future I-80 trail
- 8 Crossing at Mayflower
- 1 Crossings at Mayflower and Park Road
- 1 Crosswalks on all legs of all intersections
- 2 Crosswalks with signals
- 2 Do not like the idea of signal at Mayflower
- 1 Do not need to be wide
- 1 Eliminate on east side between Foster and Ice house
- 1 Eliminate on east side between Foster and Mayflower
- 4 Eliminate on east side or make as narrow as possible
- 2 Eliminate through traffic on east sidewalk
- 20 Full connectivity on east side
- 1 Good lighting needed
- 1 Keep trail above bridge
- 3 Mark clearly and make them easy to use
- 1 Minimize width to minimize run-off
- 1 More crossings needed
- 1 Need good, wide sidewalks but not if it means impacts on the neighborhood
- 1 Need way under bridge
- 1 Pedestrian bridge at Mayflower
- 2 Safety of pedestrians going to and from Mayflower
- 2 Separate bikes and pedestrians
- 1 Trail by river would be nice - east bank
- 1 True walkable neighborhood
- 1 Two-way on river side, 5' on east side
- 5 Very important to provide
- 1 Walkable Dubuque Street
- 2 Waterfront access
- 1 Wider on river side
- 1 Wider sidewalk on Kimball

Peninsula Neighborhood

Comment

- 1 Needs another access and exit
- 1 Needs bridge to Coralville

Ridge Road

Comment

- 3 Make intersection safer
- 1 Make intersection safer for pedestrians

Iowa City Gateway
Pre-Design Public Meeting – February 25, 2014
Comment Summary

Ridgeview Terrace

Comment

- 1 Entire neighborhood has been neglected - dead trees, house demolished, streets

Speeds

Comment

- 1 25 MPH because of noise and walking and safety
- 1 35 MPH is too fast
- 1 Concern that traffic will go faster if road is straightened
- 1 Design speed is important; people speed now
- 4 Keep speeds as is
- 4 Slow traffic
- 1 Transition 25 MPH zone to Foster

Transit

Comment

- 1 Add more options
- 1 Make turn around before Ridge, add acceleration and turn lane
- 1 More buses would reduce congestion
- 1 Need bus service for neighborhoods west of Dubuque/Foster

Turn Lanes

Comment

- 1 Add turn lane from NB Dubuque to boat house/turn around
- 1 Consider turn lane into park
- 1 Do not support
- 2 Eliminate SB right lane at park
- 2 Important to flow of traffic
- 5 Need turn access to Hancher during events
- 1 Needed onto Park Road
- 1 Needed, especially for game days

Walls

Comment

- 1 Keep less than 8 feet
- 2 Minimize as much as possible
- 1 Surface to benefit river flow - slow and calm
- 1 Terrace to maximize infiltration