



munster-streetscape.org

CALUMET-RIDGE STREETScape PLAN

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #2 MEETING SUMMARY

March 16, 2021 | videoconference | 7:00 pm

The purpose of the Public Open House was to present the preferred streetscape concept plan. Plan materials developed to date were based on outcomes of the public outreach activities and the work of the steering committee.

Due to the current health crisis, the meeting was conducted via Zoom videoconference. Meeting invitations and announcements were communicated via the following methods:

- Project website (munster-streetscape.org).
- Project website posts sent to the project website's 250+ followers via email.
- Munster website announcements
- Facebook announcements
- Committee email announcements
- Paper flyers posted in local businesses

The emailed communications invited community members to review project documents at the project website in advance of the meeting. <https://munster-streetscape.org/documents/>

Munster Streetscape – Public Open House Meeting #2 Recording | Start Time: March 16, 2021 7:00 PM

Meeting Recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/AMMEt4qedRTO0XtoMgUN1x43Qg9GRnZ0Uqcni0fxyViwfJywYQCcmWoN30uyfLpz.ATi7qQrv_IOLh-M



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Approximately 38 people attended the public meeting. The following staff and consultant team members attended and presented.

TOWN OF MUNSTER STAFF	CONSULTANT TEAM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Vander Woude, Community Development, Town of Munster • Dustin Anderson, Town Manager, Town of Munster 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jodi Mariano, Teska Associates • Stacy Meekins, Sam Schwartz Consulting
<p>PUBLIC MEETING PARTICIPANTS A list of attendees identified by screen names follows:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aaron Kock • Andy Koultourides • Anthony Christopher • Bill Baker • Chuck Gardiner • Corey Knudsen • Daniel Straka • Erin Swinson • Ireen • Hoss • iPad 3 • Jeffery Nixon • Joseph Hemingway • Julie Fatemi • Julie O'Connor • Julie's iPhone • Karl Ackermann • Keith • Ken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Cox • Mellon • Michael G • Mike Hawkins • Nancy Konopasek • Mike Hawkins • Nikki Nyhanna • Patrick Donlon • Paul Rotatori • Rachel Branagan • Roland Raffin • Sandra Lyons • Steven Shareef • Ted Vinyard • Tom Largus • Towngal • Julie S. • Wendy Mis • Galaxy Tab



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The meeting agenda and presentation topics follow below:

- 1. Introductions, Project Goals, Study Area, Scope and Schedule.**
- 2. Community Outreach Recap.**
- 3. Preferred Concept Plan Presentation**
- 4. Implementation Strategies**
- 5. Next Steps:** *Draft Report, Committee Review, Council Presentation*

Following the presentation, participants participated in an open discussion and Q+A.

MEETING Q + A. Meeting participants provided questions in the chat and raised their hands to ask questions of the team. A list of questions and responses follow below:

Q1: The plan appears to have a nice mix of improvements that is reminiscent of other vibrant districts, such as Austin and Seattle. How does traffic work near the 5 Guys development, which typically has a busy parking lot?

A1: The plan proposes a mixture of curb cut modifications (including right in/right outs, closed access at 30th St and a new access drive south of Panera) that are designed to limit vehicular access points and provide safer pedestrian crossings and connections.

Q2: Ridge Road looks great in the drawings, but I am concerned about traffic flow throughout the street and in the adjacent neighborhoods. How will this be addressed?

A2: Based on what we have learned throughout the outreach, Ridge Road carries a lot of cut through traffic today. The purpose of the streetscape plan is to reclaim Ridge Road for those who live in Munster and work in / support Ridge Road businesses. Reducing available traffic lanes on Ridge Road to provide for wider sidewalks, multi-use path and landscaping will strengthen Ridge Road as a walkable center.

We understand the potential impact to neighborhood streets and the Teska/SSC planning team are working with Munster on a separate, but parallel project, to evaluate the roadways surrounding the planned station area. This assignment looks at improving roadway and pedestrian route connections as well as recommended traffic calming techniques to improve neighborhood connectivity while calming traffic throughout the area.

With the upcoming train station, there is a possibility that commuters may park their cars on neighborhood streets. The Town is looking into various parking management and enforcement strategies to support parking while also protecting residents' needs to park cars on neighborhood streets.



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Q3: How will COVID and/or the new administration affect funding?

A3: To obtain funding, municipalities need to have a documented vision that is supported by the community and stakeholders. The purpose of the Streetscape Plan is to document Munster's vision. Anecdotally, the team has seen recent successes with grantors looking to fund shovel ready projects. Once Munster completes a Phase 1 Engineering study, this project would be considered shovel ready.

Q4: I am concerned about traffic that stacks up on Calumet Ave in the left turn lane, blocking access to businesses like Munster Donut. How will this be addressed?

A4: This planning study is a high-level study that is intended to document Munster's vision. When the Phase 1 Engineering study is conducted, detailed studies will be made on the traffic patterns. We expect that the solution may be a combination of modifications to geometry and signal timing to optimize automobile stacking for turning movements at intersections.

Q5: Poll #2 asked participants to select their preferred protected bike path treatment. Should we be concerned that the selected concrete path at sidewalk level is the desire of folks who may not use the bike path?

A5: Based on the inputs received to date, including the work of the committee, –some of whom are avid cyclists, the intent of the plan is to provide a facility that is comfortable for the widest cross section of trail users. SSC produced a level of stress study for bike paths. The outcome of that study shows that roadway and curb cut modifications will result in an improved environment for bikers.

Q6: What happens to the multi-use trail as it approaches and crosses Calumet Avenue?

A6: The roadway transitions back to Calumet Avenue as a 5-lane roadway section. To accommodate this, the available parkway space is reduced. The multi-use trail is intended to continue from the west side of Calumet to the intersection and then cross the intersection at the crosswalk. At the east side of Calumet Avenue, the multi-use trail continues east. The multi-use trail is designed to be a 10' wide trail. That cross section can be reduced to 8' if needed nearby to the Calumet Avenue intersection.

Next steps include the following:

- The planning team will prepare a draft report that documents the preferred plan and outreach.
- The Committee will meet to review the draft report.
- A presentation will be made to Town Council.
- All streetscape exhibits and materials have been posted to the entry hallway at Town Hall. The community is invited to review the exhibits and use the markers provided to provide comment.
- All meeting materials will be saved to the project website under 'documents' for review. Any further comments may continue to be submitted through the project website.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.