



Leadership Evansville Walnut Street Improvement Project Public Kick-Off Meeting Outcomes June 26, 2018

Notes from Discussion

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
CK Newsome Center
6:00-6:15 Open House
6:15-6:35 Presentation
6:35-8:00 Group Facilitation

City Engineer – Brent Schmitt

Thanking everyone for attending and engaging in this conversation with the design team and the facilitation. We are in the infancy of the project. You'll see some designs as a jumping off point based on design guidelines and geographical constraints. The design isn't completely set in stone, and this is why we are meeting with the public to see what needs to be done to make this project good.

Lochmueller Group, project consultant firm – David Goffinet

He will introduce everyone in the back and will have all of these individuals ready to speak as experts at any time around the meeting. Appreciates everyone taking time to be here. Valid question tonight: Why Walnut Street?

- **VOICE**
 - Community-wide, citizen-driven planning
 - Process to create vision for preferred future
- **Connectivity**
 - All modes of transportation
 - Green spaces, easy transit
- **Walnut has it all**
- **Road Diet**
 - Simple concept
 - The road has four lanes; this would narrow it to three lanes
 - East bound
 - West bound
 - 2-way left turn movement
 - So, why?
 - Provides a “complete street”
 - Multiple modes of transportation
 - Pedestrians
 - Cars
 - Cyclists



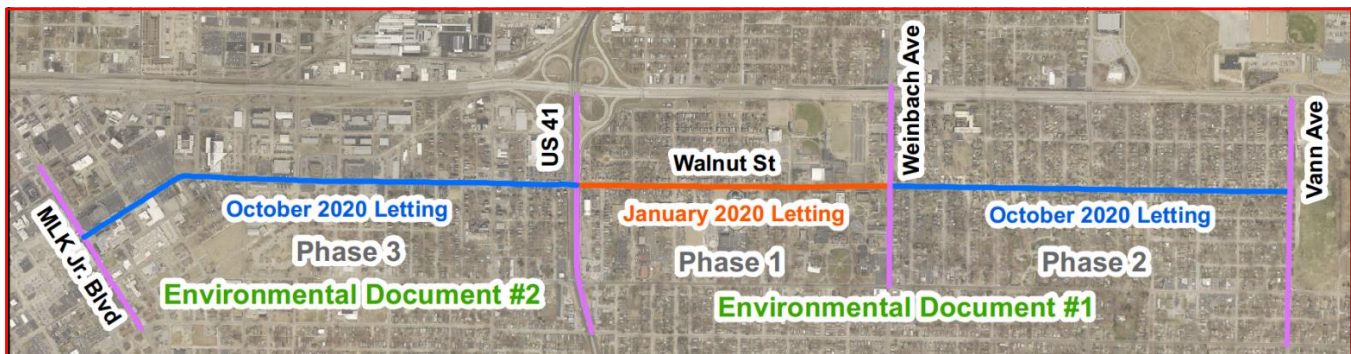
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- Walking/Running
 - Safer for all modes
 - Minimize impacts to adjacent property owners
 - Trying to accomplish the goal of looking different but not necessarily bigger
- **The city does this without digging into the coffers**
 - NO CITY BUDGET MONEY IS BEING USED FOR THIS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
 - Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)/Indiana Dept of Transportation (INDOT) – federal funding
 - 80% Federal
 - 20% Local Match
 - Regional Cities dollars
 - EWSU Green Infrastructure Incentive Program
 - Current under consent decree
 - The blessing on this difficult circumstance is that the dollars that have to go into alternative treatments can be utilized on this project; money has to be spent regardless, so this provides part of the match
 - Two other organizations wanted to help with this project as part of community health and wellness
 - Vectren
 - Welborn Baptist Foundation.

Project Manager – Dwayne Sanders, Project Manager - Lochmueller Group

Additional information – VS Engineering will be managing the project to deliver on-time and within budget. Nick Jahn, PE from VS Engineering is the deputy project manager. VS will also be responsible for a portion of the design. Would really appreciate community feedback; feedback is critical to the development of the project. Says there has never been a project he's been involved with that has required as much feedback from residents as this project.

Map of Route





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Phasing

- Currently in the conception stage
- Real specifics will be coming in the months ahead
- Project is divided into three phases
 1. US Hwy 41 to Weinbach Avenue
 2. Weinbach Avenue to Vann Avenue
 3. MLK Jr Blvd to US Hwy 41
- Divided into these phases based on specifics of the areas each is in
 - Phase 1- 80-ft public right-of-way in some areas will allow greater design flexibility
 - Phase 2- Public right-of-way decreases to 60-ft
 - Phase 3- Majority of the notable historic structures are located here
 - Also some additional environmental concerns in this area due to things underground or in some structures
 - Perfect world would put Phases 1 & 2 together, but this is all dependent on funding
- North side – 10-ft multi-use trail + 5-foot green space (minimum size)
- South side – Sidewalk (might have green space too, in Phase 1 area); for most part sidewalk will be along curb
- Lighting will be installed ([click to see “Typical section” slide](#))

Schedules

- Phase 1 Project Development (US Hwy 41 to Weinbach Avenue)
 - Preliminary Plans Technical Review – Aug 2018
 - Final Plans Technical Review – Oct 2019
 - Bid Date (Letting date for contract) – Jan 2020
- Phase 2 Project Development (MLK Jr Blvd to US Hwy 41 and Weinbach Avenue to Vann Avenue)
 - Preliminary Plans – Jan 2019
 - Final Plans – June 2020
 - Letting – Oct 2020

Goals

- Walking/Health/Wellness
- Multi-use trail connections to existing facilities
 - State Hospital grounds (and pedestrian bridge)
 - Access to soccer fields
 - Access to baseball fields
 - Future access to Roberts Park after its development



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- Hi-Rail Trail
- University of Evansville
 - More connectivity
 - Working with senior classes as a project
 - More engagement with the community (UE → EVPL Central Library downtown)
- MLK Jr Blvd/Walnut Street Intersection
 - EVPL Central Library and Ford Center and DoubleTree Hotel and Old National Events Plaza
 - MLK Jr Blvd to Heidelbach Avenue (proposed learning garden)
 - More of an urbanized trail
 - Landscape pavers/decorations
 - Green infrastructure
 - Rain gardens (example)
 - Different features
 - Green infrastructure
 - Storm water detention basins (underground) – up to the Kentucky Avenue area from MLK Jr Blvd/Walnut Street intersection
- IU Medical School/I-Light Connection
 - I-Light – fiber connection
 - If needed, elements for this will be introduced
 - Ex: underground conduit to be used in the future for fiber
 - Would be a good connection to share between:
 - UE---Stone Family Center for Health Education---USI
- METS – Comprehensive Operations Analysis
 - Where should bus shelters go?
 - What should they look like?
 - Should any be moved or eliminated?
- What's Next?
 - This is just the first of many meetings
 - Neighborhood meetings (July & August 2018)
 - Stakeholder meetings (July 2018)
 - Public Hearing #1 (Nov 2018)
 - Public Hearing #2 (Apr 2019)
- Information and Input
 - www.evansville.in.gov/walnutstreet – those who are interested can register an account to receive email updates
 - Sign-in sheets
 - Comment cards



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- Open House
- Facilitation Process

Lynn Miller-Pease & Kimberly Redding, Leadership Evansville – Introductions

- What can we do together?
- How can we dream big?
- Let’s include as many voices as we possibly can
- We need to hear exactly what your potential concerns are
- What you are excited about
- Ask as many questions as you possibly can
- Get people involved who aren’t here tonight
- Pool, school, or yard...emotions get high!
- Believe in good intent
- Believe that if someone is here, they care just as you do
- Be an active listener
- If you’re reflective, share later on a comment sheet or through email
- We are beginning a journey, this is not the end
 - Many phases to come
 - Many listening points ahead
 - Great ideas come together over time to form better ones
 - Be polite and appreciative
 - If you were a kid and in school and you had a behavior that would get you kicked out, don’t do it here

7:20 PM

Group Responses and Sharing

Group	Notes, Ideas, Outcomes	Potential Partnerships
1	Scott’s group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Big thing: Key intersections (Weinbach & Walnut) – Not as safe as it could be for walking. One in group has almost been hit by a bus there. 41 – Same way. ● Down to Canal St. A huge part of the community. We need to revitalize around that area and reengage. ● A lot of gray areas and parking lots in the urban areas. How do we green that space back up? 	Collaborate with homeowners from Promise Zone Other neighborhood associations Memorial Baptist Church UE, student organization Homeowner UNOE Promise Zone



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to engage neighborhood associations that are not effective. 9/52 not currently happening. How do we get those people out and engaged? • We also liked neighborhood markers and reading some history about the area, too. • Diagonal crosswalks • Center square, attraction point • Shelter for westbound bus stop 	
2	<p>Jake's group Bike and trail connectivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make attractive lighting • Slowing traffic (big concerns with speeding around UE) • Connectivity to downtown • Overpass at 41 for walking and bikes • Water bottle refill stations • Vann Ave overpass (at the start – eastern terminus) • Total connectivity – electric car and electric bike rental 	<p>INDOT Media/Communication groups Community service groups Service learning Sustainability Adopt-a-spot Artists/beautification</p>
3	<p>Nick and Jean's group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making sure you blend everything (eye test) • Flooding issues on Walnut • Make sure lighting and pass implemented – make it draw people in. Not typical standard street lights • Pull people in • Connectivity is great, but make sure the path is continuous • Create a circle of sorts to bring paths together (don't take the same path again to get back) • Implement city-wide internet that is open for all neighborhoods (universal city fiber like Chattanooga?) • Safety – What methods can we do to keep everyone safe on and off the street? Lots of kids riding in the area; lessen the overall concern 	<p>City administrators Memorial HS St. Bens Cathedral Police Neighborhood assoc Bus stations Developers to maintain area Master Gardeners</p>



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4	<p>Lisa's group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very creative vision: pavement that is smooth with lots of pedestrian traffic • Lots of dog walking • Straight lanes • Easy passing • Dog water stations • Landscaping and native plants – no weeds or grass • Fish pond gazing, art performances, gathering courtyards • Emergency phones • Garbage receptacles • Bike path near the curb instead of in the middle of traffic • Utility center for bikes 	<p>UE Arts USI Arts Bike clubs Master Gardeners YMCA Fire houses in area Police</p>
5	<p>Miekka's group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilities coordinated with upgrades • Don't make a beautiful street that has to be redone after 5 years • Pollinating plants that attract butterflies and others • Pedestrian bridges/safety markers/help pedestrians get across Hwy 41 • Concerns about businesses and placement; unsightly signage • Trash and recycling with regular upkeep • Dog pick up stations • Good lighting • Addressing empty lots • Safe crossing at Vann 	<p>Zoo Master gardeners Arboretum Sierra Club Alcoa Boys and Girls Club Scouting USA Girls Scouts SWINPAWS (SW IN Native Plant & Wildflower Society) Keep Evansville Beautiful</p>
6	<p>Marianne's group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming corridor • Gateways and good landscaping • Activities for pedestrians • Evening bus transportation • ADA accessibility 	<p>YMCA Cultural districts Arts EVSC Haynies Corner Sports Club at Vann</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artistic covered bus stops • Flowers and art • Activity points along the way not just merely transit 	<p>Doubletree Civic Orgs Bike Clubs Running Clubs Stone Fam Health Science Center Library Catholic Diocese UE Local Businesses KEB</p>
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Potential Stakeholders Not in Attendance at Meeting

- Memorial HS/EVSC/PTAs/ Joshua Academy
- State Hospital
- New UE president
- City Council
- Churches/Catholic Diocese
- Youth baseball
- Rescue Mission
- D-Patrick
- EPD/ Fire Houses
- Mayor Winnecke
- UNOE reps
- ADA community
- Businesses one block off Walnut
- AA Council
- Museum
- Wesselman Nature Society/ Environmental groups
- Hold a specific meeting for churches and religious groups
- IU Med School
- Eville Bicycle Club/Walkers/Runners
- YMCA
- Boys & Girls Club/Scouts
- Engineers to answer specific questions
- Community Development Commission



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What Happens Next

Take the time to fill out the Leadership Evansville form (email to Denise Biggerstaff – denise@leadership.evansville.org), drop comment cards in the box

Meeting Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Jake Kohlmeier

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WSIP Points of Contact

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- *Media Inquiries*

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