

4.25.09 Workshop #3 Feedback

Breakout 1

Question: What initiatives related to each element are most important to achieving the community's vision and why?

Transportation and Connectivity

Streetscape Improvements

- Need to be careful where Bike lanes are located (safety) (9)
- Transition of 6th street and Ellis from 4 lanes to 2 lanes will not address traffic concerns – amount of traffic on Ellis (7)
- Streetscape improvements/round-a-bouts (6)
- No Parking lots along the river front (5)
- Route/connect 6th Street with Riverfront Street (5)
- Riverside Drive- opens up Time Check, minimizes traffic and established guidelines on who will stay (5)
- More paved bike trails (5)
- Trail connection downtown, trail users vs. Cars, safety! Protecting traffic flow (4)
- Maintain roads – not being done (4)
- Focus on most important roads to bring people and businesses (4)
- Streetscape (4)
- 6th street/ Ellis transition (3)
- Bike trails (3)
- 6th street/Ellis transition (3)
- Bus shelters (3)
- Bike lanes (3)
- Beautifying 8th Ave. as entrance (2)
- Green Streetscapes (2)
- Ellis Blvd streetscapes (2)
- Ellis and 6th – make sure it flows smoothly – remains safe (2)
- Smaller busses/vans more flexibility, current Buses too large (2)
- 2 Way streets keep people in area (2)
- Roadway in front of Cargill a question. Not enough room for the road and the plant. Another option should be looked at (2)
- One-way vs. two way street – what is the purpose? – Employment center vs. retail center? (2)
- Parking in New Bohemia (2)
- Funneling of main streets down into residential areas (2)
- Bike paths on and off street (2)
- Make sure 6th street goes thru to Ellis (2)
- Connector across River in the South (2)
- Timely improvement of streets (1)
- 2nd Ave. Bridge serve as pedestrian event area (1)

- Ultimate way to deal with added traffic on 8th and 1st (1)
- Pedestrian Friendly (1)
- Ellis and 6th street connection as described (1)
- All modes of transportation (bike trails) (1)
- Esthetics of Streetscape (pedestrian) (1)
- 14th Ave S E connection to St. Wenceslaus (1)
- Ellis Blvd./6th St Connection (1)
- Streetscapes have potential – 8th Ave. (1)
- Like trail across river (1)
- Pedestrian/Biker friendly streetscapes (1)
 - With Dedicated Bike lanes (1)
- Streetscape improvement (1)
- Green space accessibility
- Bridge of Lions as a pedestrian bridge
- Dike Road both as people streets
- Connections from Ellis to Dike- Good pedestrian ways to Dike – better sidewalks
- C Street to Sinclair connection – roadway connection not a trail
- Streetscape
- Pedestrian bridges
- Bike trail Connections w/ destination (5)
- Several lane through-fares major road between NW & SW (5)
- Major East/West routes (like I-380) NOT be affected by the flood (Edgewood is a good one BUT it floods) (3)
- Better overall signage for directions to cultural facilities and attractions (3)
- Smart parking (downtown) and more signage (2)
- Need gateway from 8th Ave to Kingston (2)
- Signage (2)
- Place collectors in New Bohemia and Oak Hill Jackson (1)
- E Ave and F Ave and Ellis Blvd. is a problem area and: more access to Ellis (1)

Transit Service Improvement

- Shuttle services for events need more aware and lack of parking (5)
- S. Bridge is big positive for truck traffic (5)
- Less dependence on cars (4)
- Downtown Circulator (4)
- Circulator/Bus routes/Better Transportation – Transit (3)
- Transit system does not run frequently enough for those who use it (Frequency of routes) (3)
- Transit service improvement (2)
- Downtown Circulator (2)
- Trolley – Electric – Around city (2)
- Better access to transit service (1)
- Benches, pop cans etc. located where you get on buses (1)
- Transit service to events (1)

- Connectivity of transportation (1)
- Downtown Circulator (1)
- Downtown Circulator
- Need smaller busses
- Incorporates City Buses with School buses
- Bike racks on Buses
- Smaller buses for economic reasons
- Extend bus services – times- places
- Converting one ways to two ways

Downtown Parking improvements

- Downtown parking away from river edge (5)
- Downtown Parking improvements (4)
- Parking (3)
- Parking related to Downtown Circulator (2)
- Parking needs to be visibly appealing (2)
- Parking identified to handle businesses (1)
- Inter-modal transit facility
- Intermodal

Other

- Pedestrian and bike friendly (bike like lanes) safety and community building (3)
- Bicycle parking (3)
- Bike trails don't continue/connect (1)
- 16th Ave. Bridge for festivals (1)
- Bike parking – secure (1)

Open Space and Recreation

Comprehensive Trail System

- Like urban trails that connect areas-greenway and how trails connect schools (6)
- Cont. trail systems-Connectivity (6)
- Trails –attracts more people and get them outside (4)
- Connect all bike trails-extend them into residential area (4)
- Trails open up the north side more (to trails) (3)
- Continuous trails with connections to amenities (2)
- Trails system gives kids something to do (2)
- Bike trails as connector to event areas (Sample: use bike trail as transportation tool along with recreation) (2)
- Naturalized trails (2)
- Continuous trail systems (1)
- Bike and walking trails (1)
- Continuous trail (1)

- Provide trail markers for location, identity and maps (0)
- Bike Trails (0)
- Improving existing parks and trails (0)

Neighborhood Parks

- Use all four seasons; small parks by houses rather than across busy streets (6)
- Neighborhood parks/Playgrounds-Easier to implement, maintain/ improve existing-people know where they are build on what you have (5)
- Neighborhood parks-allow community event and people to gather (3)
- Maintain existing parks (3)
- More accessible (2)
- Re-structuring/improving exiting parks (2)
- Neighborhood parks-family walk to in evenings (2)
- Do not forget neighborhood parks (1)
- Don't take away from the parks that we have preserve existing parks (1)
- Not all park needs to be Manicured (0)

Naturalized River's Edge

- Fishing Piers (7)
- Naturalized river edge-connection to the environment (5)
- Naturalized Rivers Edge-Postings Esthetics (5)
- Blend of manicured and natural Riverscapes (5)
- Dedicated funding source for parks and recreations (4)
- Open area amphitheater by river (4)
- More deep rooted plants, the better (3)
- Riverside green space for public uses (3)
- Accessible (ADA) playground Exceeds Basic requirements, ramps, etc. (3)
- Continuous trails with connections to amenities (2)
- Recreational center/ Community Center (2)
- Riverside amphitheater (2)
- Community Center (2)
- Accessible River's edge recreation (fishing) (1)
- Plans for boating (1)
- Naturalized River Front-Prairie (0)
- Attracts more young people (0)

Greenway Programming Design

- Use all four seasons; small parks by houses rather than across busy streets (6)
- Green way- green expand, open, addition of landscaping, wants lots of green (5)
- Use Green space for public uses (3)
- If cut a tree down/plant another back (2)
- Green Space for business activities (1)
- Green space for low cost activities (0)

Other

- Public activities programmed into neighborhood centers (ex. Farmer Market) (6)
- Parking/Recreational areas-there is none (5)
- More Frisbee, golf for younger people (5)
- A community center area that includes other sources, i.e. Library, sports fields, multi-use. (5)
- How do we address parking (4)
- Amphitheater and major venues because of opportunities will bring to the city (4)
- Activities for all seasons (4)
- Landfill as opportunity for recreational (4)
- Preserve amenities we already have (3)
- Public facilities (2)
- Like them There all important (2)
- Importance of natural spaces, less maintenance for city (2)
- More camp grounds-better facilities in area (2)
- Idea of major outdoor event space... good idea (2)
- Dog friendly parks-events off lease campgrounds (2)
- Indoor multiple use of pool at location (2)
- Like indoor sports facility (1)
- Build one facility for all surrounding area (YMCA) (1)
- Walkability on top of levee (1)
- Market viability (1)
- Use natural plans and trees, less concrete (1)
- Dog Park (1)
- Sports fields (0)
- Bring back Seminole Valley area (0)
- Maintain existing parks (0)
- Connecting bike and walking trails (0)
- Parking ramp-Ellis Area (0)
- Longer pool season (0)

Arts and Cultural Opportunities

Third Street Corridor: Civic Arts

- 3rd Street Corridor – Gateway to Sinclair redevelopment site (8)
- Develop 3rd Street corridor (6)
- Accessibility to venues – mass transportation (5)
- 3rd Street Corridor (4)
- 3rd Street Corridor trails (3)
- Paramount/Theatre Cedar Rapids (3)
- Bringing back Paramount important (2)
- Having art festivals (2)
- 3rd Street & 3rd Avenue marks a cultural area – place for people to go, not just businesses (2) (duplicate)

- Connecting arts & cultural centers (1) (duplicate)
- Connecting across the river (1) duplicate

Third Avenue Corridor: Artist Community

- 3rd Avenue – add entertainment in corridor (4)
- 3rd Street & 3rd Avenue marks a cultural area – place for people to go, not just businesses (2) (duplicate)
- Encourage a strong music scene—local talent (2)
- Restore theatre & symphony (2)
- Connecting arts & cultural centers (1) (duplicate)
- Connecting across the river (1) duplicate

Protect existing community assets

- Preserving May's Island – have May's as an event destination (4)
- Open space & promenades for community events (4)
- Strong connections for New Bo & Czech Village to make both strong & to attract new arts & culture (4)
- Bridge (16th Avenue) – nice open (3)
- 16th Avenue Bridge Connection (3)
- Farmer's Market as central/ Space & weekly (3)
- Preserving historic building (2)
- Pavilion by the River for special occasions & (weddings) (2)
- Maximize local venues (2)
- Wise sidewalks/cafes (1)
- May's Island for cultural opportunities (1)
- Connectivity between existing facilities (1)
- 16th Street – connecting the two neighborhoods (1)
- Protecting existing community = re-use (1)
- Maintain downtown art sculptures/corner art (1)
- 16th Avenue bridge (0)
- Preserving neighborhood cultural identity (0)
- Czech Village enhanced (0)
- Shore up existing funding (0)
- Connect all districts by trails (0)

Preserve historic resources

- Keep historic structures (5)
- Historic resources (3)
- Historic resources – already lost too much (3)
- Preserving historic resources (1)
- Need preserve historic resources since they can't be replaced (4)
- Protect existing/restoring (1)
- Preserve (3)
- Protect (2)

- Enhance (0)
- Preservation & protection of what we already have (6)
- Modernize internal to state of the art – preserve external (4)
- Preserve historical resources (4)
- 16th Street in Czech – Museum – protecting bridge – more pedestrian (5)

Other

- Connect civic and cultural points of interest (4)
- Amphitheatre in landfill area or across May's Island – almost anywhere along the river (4)
- Outdoor amphitheater (3)
- Outdoor performance areas – better space – bring it to the downtown area; pedestrian friendly (1)
- Mixed use housing (1)

Business Reinvestment

Strengthen neighborhood centers: Ellis and 6th, Taylor, Czech Village, Cedar Valley Park and New Bohemia

- Restore A&W and Dairy Queen on Ellis (10)
- Neighborhood small business is important (7)
- Neighborhood commerce (7)
- Define neighborhood character and take active steps to develop that (6)
- West side business development (5)
- Strengthen downtown vitality (5)
- Redevelopment of Czech village (5)
- Neighborhood businesses supported (4)
- Neighborhoods to have both residences and businesses (4)
- Better identification neighborhoods and neighborhood centers (3)
- Community centers with services in Time Check and Czech Village (3)
- Like businesses in the neighborhoods (3)
- Smaller neighborhood businesses (2)
- Neighborhoods bring people together and strengthens connections (3)
- Neighborhoods groups taking action like glass cleanup, etc., actions bring more action – good to see (3)
- Strengthen the west side of the artificial boundary of I380 to visibly draw people (3)
- Neighborhood groceries (3)
- Time Check area encourages development (3)
- Strengthen neighborhood centers but need to expand this outside flood affected areas (3)
- Coe area business reinvestments strengthened downtown venues (3)
- Reinvest in area in Coe College area (2)

- Businesses that neighborhoods relate to (2)
- Make Czech village a destination area (2)
- Strengthen neighborhood centers (1)
- Connecting businesses on 6th street 8 (1)
- Keeping scale of businesses appropriate for neighborhoods
- Established neighborhoods need to have people back before businesses can take off
- Neighborhood support
- Save the A&W concept
- Neighborhood safety

Strengthen Downtown Core, Riverfront and West Side with Mix of Uses

- Strengthening downtown core (9)
- Downtown core (7)
- Strengthening downtown core – brings cohesiveness and focus (4)
- Downtown farmers' market (4)
- Add housing downtown (3)
- Riverfront retail development (1)

Diversify Medical District with Housing & Supporting Uses

- Diversification in medical district difficult due to hospital expansion (2)
- Medical district is a magnet – another focal point (1)
- Diversity of medical districts
- Feasible medical district
- Add housing and medical district

Other

- Strengthen downtown core helps to develop stronger sense of community (10)
- Holistic approach to people and to live and work here (5)
- Filling empty and abandoned buildings (4)
- Multigenerational is important (4)
- Everyone receives funding (4)
- Stream-line building development process (4)
- Development incentives and education program on alternative funding sources for developers and entrepreneurial stakeholders (4)
- West side mixed uses' (3)
- Nostalgic revitalization (3)
- More residential in downtown core (commercial on first street floor residential above with skywalks connections to blvd – park users need bait shop and marina) (3)
- Foster relationship between patrons and business and city (2)
- More small businesses rather than commercial – more retail types (2)
- Strengthen skywalk system (2)
- Expand business enterprise zones (1)

- Programs for displaced businesses (1)
- Businesses with social economic crossover (1)
- Support for local owned venues (1)
- Park around businesses area (1)
- Enhancing what exists (1)
- Walkable business area
- Diversity of businesses (Skora bakery and A&W)
- Buy in from city council on local venues
- Regulatory support for design standards
- Can versus cannot
- Developers feel there are a lot of hoops to get land developed
- City doesn't have a variety of grocery stores
- Provide for special events
- Need a wider variety of use
- Streetscaping

Housing and Neighborhood Character

Preserve existing character

- Preserve existing character of neighborhood (8)
- Preserving existing character does not include homes on wheels (8)
- Preserve existing character - lost imp. structures already - imp. to preserve (5)
- Preserve the character of the neighborhood (4)
- Preserve character of neighborhoods (3)
- Preserve housing types (3)
- Unique character {preserve}, while incorporating new development (2); mixed income housing helps preserve neighborhood character, provides easy access to services (2)
- Preserve existing character but we need to take opportunity to create other uses
- Preserve existing character of housing

Infill housing on underutilized land downtown

- Downtown housing - mixed income housing should be available (5)
- Infill housing downtown area (more people downtown allows for more parking and retail shops (4)
- Infill to use unused open areas / everywhere (4)
- Infill housing very important (4)
- Infill housing - stop sprawl to help new business downtown and add vibrancy (2)
- Distribute infill housing throughout the city on currently owned city property but not on wide open green spaces (2)
- Multiple housing units infiltrated with single residents (1)
- Attached housing (1)
- Opportunities for infill spaces

Focus housing reinvestment near neighborhood centers

- Density in core area (3)
- Creating neighborhood centers (2)
- Focus the housing near neighborhood centers (1)

Other important initiatives related to housing and neighborhood character

- Encourage home ownership - not more than 20% of rental in neighborhood (7)
- Aesthetics of proposed 1st Ave and 6th Street intersection (6)
- Multi-generational and multi-use to keep businesses going; mix of people in neighborhoods is good (6)
- Make new housing areas more appealing - try new architecture - energy efficient - green friendly (5)
- Promotion of multi-use housing in downtown area (5)
- Housing, especially affordable housing, green housing (5)
- Meeting multi-generational needs (5)
- Progressive property tax (4)
- Provide flood protection - Oakhill-Jackson (4)
- More vertical housing between 8th Ave and interstate - Westside of river (4)
- Affordability of neighborhood housing (4)
- Mix of business and housing (4)
- Total neighborhoods - self contained all aspects - business, schools, etc, everything you need (4)
- Flood protection so people can / will rebuild / building fed courthouse is a draw (3)
- Mixed use structures - healthier mix, more and diverse trees, efficient use, safety, green spaces (3)
- Get neighborhood cleaned up (3)
- Establish guidelines for empty lots (3)
- Providing housing in most residential affected areas (3)
- Small businesses within neighborhoods (3)
- Need to have strong code enforcement to maintain quality of neighborhoods (3)
- Save trees around houses (2)
- Concentrate on single family homes (2)
- Appreciate variety of housing options / styles offered (2)
- Multi-generational needs being met (2)
- Balance with local business - downtown (2)
- The community engaged to redevelop itself (2)
- Put high-rise housing in medical district for employees of medical facilities (2)
- Make shorter housing - no high rises - I like to see sky not buildings (1)
- Higher density at major intersection with courtyards / pocket parks as buffers to single family (1)
- Need incentive for replacement housing (1)
- Handicapped accessible homes - design elements -- zero entry homes (1)
- Community centers (1)

- Carefully determine housing rehab (1)
- Will bring back the areas (1)
- Affordable housing NEED (1)
- Maintain the vitality of the neighborhoods by mixed uses (1)
- Look at all options while rebuilding (1)
- Needs to be market driven (1)
- Vibrant neighborhoods (1)
- Work with people that want to fix their houses (1)
- Allow flood victims to choose type of home they want for replacement (1)
- Housing along 2nd Street SW (1)
- No housing in parts (1)
- Have urban design standards that require high quality building standards -- sustainability / green building
- Affordable housing
- Responsible occupants
- New Bohemia upgrade
- Neighborhood businesses mixed within neighborhoods
- Mixed-use housing
- Diverse / not cookie cutter
- Multi-story story and multi-use housing near river
- Smart growth
- No high rises along the river; timely help for residents

Question: Are there any initiatives missing?

Transportation and Connectivity

Streetscape Improvements

- Bike trail Connections w/ destination (5)
- Several lane through-fares major road between NW & SW (5)
- Major East/West routes (like I-380) NOT be affected by the flood (Edgewood is a good one BUT it floods) (3)
- Better overall signage for directions to cultural facilities and attractions (3)
- Smart parking (downtown) and more signage (2)
- Need gateway from 8th Ave to Kingston (2)
- Signage (2)
- Place collectors in New Bohemia and Oak Hill Jackson (1)
- E Ave and F Ave and Ellis Blvd. is a problem area and: more access to Ellis (1)

Transit Service Improvements

- Circulators to connect other areas (mall areas, ISU/IA (Examples) (4)
- Light rail - future mass transit options (3)
- After hour and weekend transit service (2)
- Sunday bus service (2)
- Electric Trolleys (2)
- Allowing Bikes on Bus (2)
- Expanded hours of operation for transit (2)
- Park and Ride (2)
- More shelters (1)
- Handicapped accessible bus shelters (1)
- The times transportation runs- Don't end at 6 pm

Downtown Parking Improvements

- Smart parking (downtown) (2)
- Free parking downtown (1)
- Downtown parking needs to be convenient to business and shopping
- Intermodal Transit Facility

Other

- Bike trail connections with destination (5)
- Circulators to connect other areas (mall areas, ISU /IA examples) (4)
- Ellis-6th St. Connection isn't thought through enough (4)
- Utility poles underground –financial and functional feasibility (3)
- Discussion of street needs for large employers (Cargill, Penford, Quaker) (2)
- Discussion of I-380 Access (1)

- More lighting (1)
- Home owners charged for civic improvements – (1) (a concern)
- More eco-friendly

Open Space and Recreation

- Multiple generational center (6)
- Exposure to nation, zoo, water park, amusement park, theme park (we use local people to make it unique) (6)
- Transition from flood protection to new development (Clarify for citizens) (4)
- Priority of maintaining existing housing vs. building new parks (4)
- Volunteer Coalition to help maintain recreational areas (3)
- Community gardens in neighborhoods (3)
- Continue trails to Cedar Hills (3)
- Funding for maintenance (taxes, fees) (3)
- Recreational activities for elderly (3)
- Green square parks (How the owners feel about the expansion +/-) (2)
- Investment by neighborhood (2)
- Summer children activities at parks (2)
- Have celebration without shutting down streets (1)
- Green space neglects parking (1)
- Promoting the trails (1)
- Parking greenway area (1)
- Bike races, river run (0)
- Better maintenance of parks (0)
- Putting RAGBRAI on trails (0)
- Amphitheater- Ellis park (0)
- Funding For maintaining existing parks (0)

Arts and Cultural Opportunities

Third Street Corridor: Civic Arts

- Open air meeting spaces/location for special activities - new Amphitheatre (4)
- Not feasible to define where art will be (3)
- Keep festivals downtown (3)
- Protection (3rd Street) from future floods (2)
- 3rd Street should be artistic; 3rd Avenue civic (1)
- Neighborhood oriented arts & entertainment expanded into 4 quadrants & infiltrated (0)

Third Avenue Corridor: Artist Community

- Theatre – beyond school (3)
- Music in the parts – programmed or sponsored (1)
- Don't focus enough on entertainment for real people (1)

- Tapping into creativity & attracting creative people (0)

Protect existing community assets

- Neighborhood centers – arts & cultural opportunities & educational (4)
- Make available to all people financially (3)
- Focus on science/living museums (3)
- Teen activities (3)
- Art & culture items in area to enhance the neighborhood Time Check (3)
- Arts are important for growth of the city (2)
- Sustainable using existing structures (1)

Preserve historic resources

- Gateways and signage that describe the cultural area i.e. Czech Village (2)
- Restore historical rather than rebuild (2)

Other:

- Large civic/venue center/parking (6)
- Dedicated funding (5)
- Major events venue (new) (4)
- Disperse cultural sites; mix in with businesses, rather than concentrating them (4)
- Including youth in Cultural & Arts – especially at-risk youth (3)
- Library – new, located downtown (3)
- Where is the outdoor amphitheatre? (3)
- Private & governmental support entities & organizers (2)
- Commuter parking lots could also be used for events (2)
- Accessibility for disabled & aged (2)
- Opportunities for increased diversity & awareness (1)
- Defining areas makes it exclusionary (1)
- Re-define what arts & cultures mean (1)
- No place to park for Green Square events (1)
- Including key stakeholders – faith communities (0)
- Marketing of events (0)

Business Reinvestment

Strengthen neighborhood centers: Ellis and 6th, Taylor, Czech Village, Cedar Valley Park and New Bohemia

- Balance of business types in neighborhood (3)
- Businesses need to fit character of neighborhoods (2)

Other

- Creation of significant # of good jobs with good pay to bring more people (5)
- Maintain existing historical structures (4)

- Better parking (3)
- Better access for disabled, aging populations (3)
- Storm water run-off management (permeable) (3)
- Businesses catering to diverse ages (2)
- Lodging capacity (2)
- Sustainable access to businesses with multiple transportation modes (2)
- Schools (2)
- Trees, planters, etc, must be part of business areas (2)
- Sporting – Skate Shop to appeal to younger generation (1)
- Assumption that existing will work in future (Osada) (1)
- Mixed use housing (1)
- Transit oriented development (1)
- Assumption that what works elsewhere will work here (0)
- Financial incentives (1)
- Parking to support business (0)
- Decentralized business reinvestment (0)
- Serve new residential /development businesses to serve these people (0)
- Re-evaluate building and zoning ordinances (0)
- Flood plan to help business decide if they should reinvest – should citizens/businesses make a leap of faith? (0)

Housing and Neighborhood Character

- Need initiatives for mixed use housing downtown - including west bank (9)
- More affordable - owner occupied, not rental (6)
- Protect neighborhood through land board restrictions, i.e., licensing (6)
- Housing re-investment between McKinley - Coe - Greek Orthodox church - transition from “downtown” to the “neighborhoods” - re-investment focus (4)
- Multi-cultural also - multi-generational was listed (4)
- Green space / open space required in mixed housing - mid-sized and attached residential (2)
- Connecting housing to the skywalk in the downtown area (2)
- Available infill lots (2)
- Shortage of affordable housing due to flood and beyond (1)
- Funding and expertise to rehab flood damaged homes developed locally (1)
- Defining affordable rent (1)
- Timely completion of street repairs (1)
- Provide incentives for investors
- Funding
- Restore rather than rebuild