

Unprioritized Strengths and Opportunities from Area Meeting 1, 2/10/09

North Area

- Improve bus service
- Neighborhood trolley
- Bring trails from out areas
- Kappa Ann Boat going up and down the river
- City busses to schools / between schools / more direct routes
- Better bus routes
- Bicycle lanes in streets
- Canal system for streams
- More space for sidewalks
- Flooding Edgewood and Ellis
- Safety
- Safety near rivers downtown
- Road along levy
- Sidewalks
- Boat harbor
- Bus system needs to be improved; more frequent, better coverage
- Need better road connections south of F Ave
- Dislike dead end trails
- Dislike infrequent bus service
- Dislike disconnections south of F Ave
- Trails disconnected during floods
- Visual connection to the river
- Like making connections between green spaces and trails to north and south
- Like existing river walk
- Would like to see better pedestrian connections across the river
- Better access to community center
- Houses along the river right next to river
- Strengthening connections across bridges
- Better connections of Cedar Lake
- Trails to downtown, safety
- Better pedestrian experiences downtown
- Problem of trails connecting to sidewalks
- Trails are a strength
- E Ave is a strength
- Ellis is a strength
- Direct routes
- Signature streets
- Park-n-rides to bus route
- All suggestions have merit but without realigning streets it is difficult
- Schools
- Small businesses
- I-380
- Recreation
- Parks
- Time Check
- Like that roads don't go through (neighborhoods in smaller sections, natural boundary)
- Kids currently stay in neighborhoods, play with neighborhood kids
- Taylor is community resource family center
- Recreation (Time Check, Boys and Girls Center, brought kids to neighborhoods)
- Greenways as opportunities
- Need recreation center/community resource center, before/after school, rec programs, senior dining, multi-generational
- Not connected to school (safety, people have access more than school hours)
- Snow removal on sidewalks in flood affected areas needs to occur
- Mowing
- Ball field on west side of levy, artificial turf
- Specific dimensions for where levy will end up - let people know
- Paramount theatre -- is it right to rebuild?
- Make CR a destination community
- Library, bring it back
- Bike trails started
- Ellis park
- Diversity of housing
- Diversity of business
- Road system
- Small pockets of business

- Disconnect of 6th and Ellis, 18th are strengths
- A&W is a strength
- Used to walk bike on RR bridge
- Bus route
- Time check park
- Trails = bike path connect
- Floodway
- River
- No bike tails are going west
- Public transportation
- Robins Lake as primary recreation area
- O Ave watershed issues
- 6th connection to Ellis Blvd
- 6th Street and Ellis
- O Ave access to green space
- Stream connection (possible delighting)
- F Ave 20way or expand F opposite
- Ellis and 1st connection
- Low spot at Edgewood Ellis, improve drainage
- What replaces 1st? new connector street
- Mass transit (green space area? north and south)
- Ellis and Penn connection
- Replacement for 1st same qualities
- All season use of green space
- Connect 380 and F
- Bike, pedestrian connections
- No 1st Street by water
- O are access and flow issues
- Ellis need improvement to handle O and F traffic to replace 1st
- Sustainability
- Safe routes
- Alleys, garages in back
- Easy access
- Walkability, pedestrian friendly
- Safety on trails
- Edgewood road, walkability
- Dark at night, need more lighting
- Traffic lights out of sync
- Light pathways,
- No pollution
- Trees and environment protected
- close knit neighbors
- Wooded area - protect
- Cedar rive recreation
- Park space
- Maintain existing type of housing
- Maintain existing landmarks
- Road maintenance issues
- Lack of city support for infrastructure and city facilities
- Small lots
- Affordable housing
- Loosing ¼ people from Time Check
- Harrison school utilization issues
- Rebuilding of homes and businesses
- Protect existing green spaces
- Farmer markets in areas besides downtown
- Opportunities for entertainment

Central Area

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ultimately need a downtown hotel • Example – Duluth MN warehouse district • Develop May’s Island • Destinations & draws beyond bars – active parks • New housing could also take advantage of Cedar Lake’s natural features • Housing also in area east of downtown toward MCC • Parking • Vibrant – grow Downtown, not Mayberry • Community Center – all ages – (Green Square – Uptown Friday) • Amphitheatre – existing space • GTC potential redevelopment with city assistance • Tie (tic) different neighborhood areas • Combine medical into one district • 3rd Avenue • Intermodal increased similar to VC hub for transit with transit users • Cultural events • Creating medical district • Hotel near downtown • Connection between vibrant centers (example Coe & Mt Mercy) • Courthouse area • “Arts District” should be south of 8th Street along 3rd Street as “New Bohemia” • Establish a museum “campus” near Green Square (3rd Ave /4th Ave) • Connect neighborhood trails to Cedar Lake Trails • Develop and identity for the Medical District • Reinforce downtown: co-locate arts – organizations –historic preservation • New Bohemia starting to define itself • Uptown college district • Elementary schools are local neighborhood landmarks • Unique multi-use architecture • Expand green space | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should be free parking downtown • More parking options • No back up parking – too dangerous • City did not grow since 70’s because streets are not properly designed. Narrow streets prevent growth. • Skywalk system is strong – could be expanded – allows travel across downtown without going outside • Problem with skywalk – difficult to personalize • Trolley loops for Downtown to neighborhoods • Sidewalk cafes encourage walking • Widen streets so city can grow • Trains block traffic downtown • College students not encouraged to walk to downtown • Need better circulation – transit – around downtown – lessons parking need • Coe/St. Luke’s not currently good “Gateway” – “Yet” • 8th Ave/Mt Vernon – Good Gateway • 8th/7th/I-380 – Good Gateway • Gateways need to be enhanced • 2nd Street – Good model of Signature Street – based on design elements and relationships to street level activities • Look to Dubuque’s adaptive reuse • Consider climate for biking etc. • Need high quality • Connections need destinations! • Site-ing of ITC needs to consider adjacent uses (i.e., quiet parks) • Expand Green Square Park • West Bank hard to get to – well-designed, beautiful footbridge i.e., Little Rock • What are other transit opportunities going north? Tram, trolley, pedestrian-only zones? • i.e., San Antonio Riverfront; i.e., Grand Forks Riverfront; i.e., Denver’s 16th Street Shuttle • Big parking lot by Cedar Lake connected to tram |
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian friendly streetscapes – character for downtown, downtown eating establishments • Commercial/retail consistent with neighborhood, but neighborhood services • More streetscaping • Gateways for Downtown • Multi-seasonal use of green space • Need design standards – high standards • Downtown still has a presence, but mall are competing & lacks residential support • All are good opportunities on the map • What does it mean to define Medical District? Restaurants, etc. • Vets Memorial Building reuse—“Flood Museum” – Indoor Farmer’s Market (Year Round) • More housing density in the center • Coe College – housing – building on existing Rowhouse – Style – SF • Marketing in housing for urban professionals – mixed use, walkable, urban-setting • ?Parking needed to support consolidate surface lots for opening up more developable space • Housing affordability • Daycare • Converting 4th Street rail – as long as it is aesthetically pleasing • Differentiate streets – traffic efficient + walking oriented streets • Wider sidewalks • Railway is a disruption through the downtown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen 4th Street Rail corridor – solve traffic issues – does strengthen mean get rid of rail downtown? More? • One-way street conversion & ITC are important • Put bike web in green area – trails need destinations not just recreational • Places should become gateways • Improve hotels, build on • 1st Ave not yet a “signature street” • River area is unique opportunity – place to linger, restaurants • Safer, slower 2-way traffic downtown • Skywalks – better way-finding maps – not thru businesses, etc. • Work with railroads on mutual needs – events downtown railroad’s problem • Safer bus stops – better • Pedestrian bridge downtown – connect to trails • Parking problems/street maintenance • Calm traffic on 2nd & 3rd Ave • Redesign access from Diagonal Drive
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South Area

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inexpensive commercial space • Lack of restaurants • People intimidated by police presence in Czech Village • Don't know of V.C. in C.R. – expect bar (sp)? • Houby Days • Small lots – both sides of river; small houses • New BO – Czech Village – single occ. • the mixture of uses – interpersonal (diversity) not all commercial • Had diverse housing – Levee Project will eliminate it • Infrastructure is sad • Open space – lots of room to rebuild; lots of brownfields • Public opinion that one side of the river is better – river division • Ownership is key – some rentals • Czech Village Residential – What to do with that area (C Street to River) short and long term. • The Island should, should be a, not a center of govt. • Reused • A park • Inexpensive commercial space • Green space throughout commercial area • Housing Diversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Small apartments, large apartments, single occupancy, subsidized, ▪ ___?___ lots ▪ Not many \$400,000 homes ▪ Condos expensive ▪ Rampant “garden lots” – few homes outside of ___?___ range ▪ Some lots there protected as habitat, but feels dense • Oakhill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of rentals • Some large lots • <i>Skogman (sp)</i> – new houses • New, big apartment buildings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers' Market – Roundhouse → personal, not too large back to Czech Village • South of Czech (Wilson Ave) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small houses – worker housing • 14th – 16th old Hwy? Red ball Hwy? Hwy 30? • Four Oaks – main and ___? ___ Building. • How do we find common ground? • ISA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restaurants • Walkable diversity exists here • Bringing back people • How do we find common ground? • Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighborhood stores (businesses) • Accessibility (able to walk everywhere) • Downtown housing • Weaknesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Going to lose space with levee (lose neighborhoods) • Affordability – keep costs down • Not a lot of options; nothing available • Need essential services • New focus – marketing to draw people in |
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