

**North Monroe Advisory Board Meeting  
22 September, 2016**

Advisory Board Attendance: Mike Trautman, Ed Ardiss, Dale M Westhaver, EJ Ianelli, Jill Leonetti, Brianna Musser, Megan Kennedy, Chris Bornhoft

General Public Attendance: Garry Huston, Wes Marburger, Ike Bubna, Bob Kenney, Gary Jarvis, Katy Azar, Steve Hopkins, Patrick Keegan, Lori Keegan, Melody Ardiss, Bill Mullins, Troy Varness

**Housekeeping**

Review of Notes, Approved

**Focus Areas and Economic & Fiscal Health**

Meeting Goal

- Finalize Focus Areas
- Staff needs this info to start making visuals

Economic Health of Business Districts

- Market for retail is changing
- Malls and power-centers struggling due to oversupply and shift in preferences
- Online buying power players bigger role for bargain hunters
- New value to traditional walkable communities
- Demographics: Retiring boomers and millennials prefer a balanced environment
- How does new development (private + public) add to access to services, economic competitiveness, inviting district, jobs, retail sales, wealth

Project Goals

- Safety
- Enhance Streetscapes
- Pedestrian Access
- Support Daily Traffic Volumes
- Build Upon Cohesive Business Area

How?

- Recognize North Monroe's Diversity
  - Retail
  - Services
  - Food and Dining
  - Auto-Repair
  - Office
  - And More
- Fine Tune Project to take advantage of variety = Focus Areas

What is a Focus Area?

- A few strong blocks- 2 to 4 block

- Minimal missing teeth (vacant buildings and/or vacant lots)
- High quality building frontage oriented towards Street
- Good, safe crossing with minimized crossing distance
- These are the “hot-spots”

#### Why Focus Areas?

- Respects current businesses and their needs
- Effective Use of project elements

#### Focus Area vs Non Focus Areas

- Everyone gets an upgraded streetscape
- Focus Areas will get higher concentration of elements like benches, Trashcans, pedestrian lighting, street trees, etc.

#### Feedback from Board

- Add Gateway on the South Side
- Shrink Proposed Focus Areas
- Add a Third Focus Area

#### Questions from the Board

- Critical for the business to know how construction times are affected if they exist in the focus area
  - It is unlikely construction time will be affected by adding extra elements in focus areas
- How can we make it that the benches are so that people can't sleep on them?
  - The placement of benches and their location is a local preference. Some districts for example chose to postpone adding benches in their new streetscape. The Advisory Board can provide feedback on preferences.

Did east/west traffic come into play? Do you look at any of the other crossroads? Do you see other roads becoming major east/west roads?

#### Group 1

- Indiana Intersection
- Signage for Emerson Park
- Extended middle focus area two blocks north

#### Group 2

- More pedestrians is going to equal less traffic? Is there a way to balance that?
- We need to better address the grant components related to the 5 lanes to 3 lanes.
- Lights from car standpoint as well
- Look at How E/W street width foster development into the neighborhood, particularly in the center focus area, Grace to Chelan

#### Group 3

- Look at the grant; does this have to be a 3 lane configuration

- Middle area should be moved a block or two to the north
- Cleveland and Montgomery areas have the highest walking traffic
- Totally do away with the center viaducts with increased lighting
- Increase the number of stop lights or other methods to slow people down

#### **Final Items**

A request was made of staff to email to the board the grants and proposals

These are posted online under “general documents and links”:

<https://my.spokanecity.org/projects/north-monroe-corridor-project-2018/>

DRAFT