

Tower Terrace Road Corridor Meeting

Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center
Tuesday, March 25th, 2008



Tonight's Agenda

- I. Introduction
 - Why are we here?
- II. Public Input Summary
 - Stakeholder Input Summary
 - Advisory Group Input Summary
- III. Roadway Design
 - Tell us what you don't like about roads in the metro area?
 - How would you design them differently?
- IV. Group Discussion
 - Look at some images? What do you like? What don't you like? Why?
- IV. Next Steps!
 - Create some options and get your feedback



What is the Corridor MPO?

- Responsible for metro-wide transportation planning
 - New roads, new trails, new transit facilities, etc.
 - Address regional issues when they emerge

- Consists of representatives from metro-area communities
 - Board members are Policy-makers from the metro-area (or their appointees)

Why is the Corridor MPO coordinating this project?

- Simply put: Growth
 - 2005 Population & Employment Forecasts
 - Within 30 years, nearly 35,000 new residents.
 - Roughly, the equivalent of Cedar Falls, IA
 - The Corridor MPO's projections indicate a critical need for Tower Terrace Road to alleviate congestion through improved connectivity.



Role of the Corridor MPO?

- Coordination
 - Tower Terrace Road is a regional roadway, impacting five local governments.
 - Ensuring coordination and communication between the five governments benefits citizens.

- Funding
 - The Corridor MPO provides 80% of the funding for Tower Terrace Road (Robins Rd. to Council St. NE).

- Addressing Stakeholder Concerns
 - Ensuring that affected stakeholders are included in the planning process early and often.

- Provide Policy-makers with the tools they need to make policy decisions



Why a Corridor Management Plan?

□ Proactive Planning!

- To involve the affected property owners, business owners, advocacy groups, and the general public early and often throughout the process.
- To allow all governments to communicate and coordinate efforts in and around the Corridor prior to expected growth, rather than after growth.
- To give road designers more information regarding adjacent properties such as proposed zoning designations before design occurs.
- To identify and address issues that are raised during the **planning process** instead of the **construction process**.
- To use taxpayer dollars in an efficient, cost-effective, cost-saving, and coordinated fashion.

Timeout: What about County Home Road?

- Too inconvenient for roadway users.
 - Won't alleviate future network congestion
 - Traffic will continue to take roads that are already at or nearing peak-hour capacity
 - Won't improve network connectivity
 - County Home does not represent a realistic means of traveling east/west
 - Too far ahead of development
 - Will accommodate traffic for some time as a three-lane facility

**Tower Terrace is a compliment to
County Home Road, not a substitute.**



How is this plan being developed?

- Public Input Driven!

- Two part process:

- Stakeholder Group – consists of home owners, business owners, property owners, advocacy groups, economic development agencies, etc.
- Advisory Group – consists of elected officials, appointed officials, engineers, and planners.

Tower Terrace Road Corridor Management Plan

Stakeholder Group



Stakeholder Concerns: Summary

- Effects on property values
- Drainage Issues
- Child / Pedestrian Safety
- Right-of-Way Width
- Maintaining Rural Character
- Roadway design
- Impact to existing neighborhoods
- Impact to Sensitive Areas
- Development Timeline



Stakeholder Questions: Summary

- ❑ What will happen to East Robins Road?
- ❑ Will our property be condemned / acquired?
- ❑ What happens to the water supply if we're in the County?
- ❑ What significant alternatives have been addressed, like County Home Road?
- ❑ How will this impact surrounding streets?
- ❑ What will be done to Council Street as a result of Tower Terrace?
- ❑ Will this road really be needed in 2030?

Tower Terrace Road Corridor Management Plan

Advisory Group



Tower Terrace Road Corridor Advisory Group

- Wants your comments on:
 - A working vision statement
 - A working list of goals for the future roadway

- Has begun:
 - Identifying possible objectives to implement goals
 - Working to identify and develop possible implementation strategies



Corridor Vision Statement: Working Draft

“A regionally significant transportation corridor that benefits all stakeholders and accommodates each mode of transportation in a coordinated fashion that is safe, efficient, effective, and aesthetically and environmentally friendly.”



Tower Terrace Road Corridor Management Plan

- Draft Goals:
 - Improve intergovernmental cooperation
 - Coordinate Land Use
 - Accommodate all modes of transportation
 - Protect & Improve the Corridor environment
 - Create an aesthetically pleasing, pedestrian-friendly corridor
 - Involve the public early & often throughout the project
 - Create a safe & efficient transportation facility
 - Reduce system-wide congestion and travel times

Group Discussions

Components of Roadway Design



Group Breakout Session 1

What don't you like about roads?

10 min.



Group Breakout Session 1

What would your ideal road look
like?

10 min.

Visual Preferences:

Some Images

Tower Terrace Road Stakeholders: Next Steps

- Meeting 3: Mid/Late May
 - Corridor MPO Staff will develop design alternatives for stakeholder group feedback
 - Staff will also work with Advisory Group to update the goals and vision statement based on Stakeholder Group feedback

- Meeting 3: Early June
 - Staff will present the preferred options and their rationale to the Stakeholder Group
 - Advisory Group members may be on hand to answer questions

- Meeting 4: Late June
 - Draft Tower Terrace Road Corridor Management Plan will be available.