

MOORHEAD NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING

Working Group – March 27, 2007

Gateway Concepts Feedback – 12 forms returned

What do you think about the gateway areas shown tonight, what is your biggest concern?

- **Traffic congestion** RESPONSES: 2
- **Pedestrian safety** RESPONSES: 5
- **Parking** RESPONSES: 0
- **Visual appearance** RESPONSES: 1
- **NO CHOICES** RESPONSES: 4

COMMENTS:

- **Pedestrian safety.** Is this really an issue? Students need training sometimes!! We need to expect them to be adults.
- **Parking.** None shown.
- **Visual appearance.** Positive Ideas
- **Traffic congestion.** Park traffic already seems beyond the capacity of the current pavement, between I94 and downtown.
- **Pedestrian safety.** Concordia's access across 8th is in need of improvement.
- **Visual appearance.** It is a front door and it needs to have curb appeal.
- **Pedestrian safety.** Cross walks/traffic lights on 8th Street South between 7th and 12th Avenues for safety of Concordia students.

What concept do you prefer for the northern portion of 8th Street? (8th Street and 7th Avenue)?

- **Concept 1 (as-is)** RESPONSES: 3
- **Concept 2 (median with urban sidewalk section)** RESPONSES: 1
- **Concept 3 (median with boulevard sidewalk section)** RESPONSES: 7
- **NO CHOICES** RESPONSES: 1

COMMENTS:

- **Concept 3 (median with boulevard sidewalk section).** It's attractive and seems to fit with the higher education assets.

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COMMENTS: Do you have any other comments on the two gateway areas? (8th Street and 20th Street)

- Consider adding a turning lane on 20th Street heading south at 8th Street (near the pool).
- Does the placement of trees in very close proximity to streets increase the severity of traffic accidents? This might impact the selection of the street concept.
- Regarding 8th Street, I think we should also look at a proposal to reduce traffic lanes. Though people seem to intuitively believe increasing lanes moves traffic more quickly, there are some studies showing reducing lanes can move traffic as quickly.
- Concrete stamped and colored, rather than pavers. Low maintenance.
- Motives, agendas, cost, maintenance, and pragmatics.
- Too much change too fast in wrong areas of the city for wrong reasons.
- Lacks teeth for mixture of housing types; to warehouse people into higher density housing without respect to needs of the community? Very closed minded with minimal insight into human services and gentrification.
- It will be very nice to be more welcoming to students, to provide better traffic flow, and to be more intentional about having a good look and feel along 8th Street. Having extra commercial near the colleges would be wonderful and, I think, well utilized.
- 8th – hold development to current zoning of ½ block from 8th.
- 8th – limit left turns to lighted intersections only (no mid-block at Concordia).
- 20th – may be 20th should be 4-laned with a smaller median.
- 20th – will there be increased traffic flow after railroad separation and if MSUM gates to the east. May be we should look to 20th to take more of the traffic.
- Swimming pool/park issues: The swimming pool and park should remain where it is. That neighborhood and those kids need that recreational facility. We spend plenty of money on golf courses in Moorhead. Those neighborhoods aren't using those golf courses. The pool should stay in that area.
- I think we should put some money into fixing those houses (8th and 7th Avenues) and leave it hoping it can be used for boutique, retail, bed and breakfast, etc. I like the way it looks if it were well maintained. It matches the historic Comstock neighborhood *feel*. Has anyone approached Garrison Keiller about buying these? The houses look just like the Prairie Home set. It's right down the street from his show's namesake.
- As a walker, paving stones are dangerous. The different levels, setting of the stones, etc., can cause falls sprained ankles, etc. Just use cement.
- I would like to see 20th Street developed as an arterial. Especially if an interstate exchange could be added on 20th.
- There should be a pedestrian demand light on 8th Street and 9th Avenue South.
- There are traffic study planning problems: (1) How does the 20th Street underpass affect potential traffic flow? (2) Ditto for I94 and 20th interchanges. (3) More thought about east and west avenues (e.g., 4th, 6th, and 9th).
- This meeting went backward when I asked a question that then caused two fellows to go on an ad hawcum about their own experiences. You should have politely cut them off and gone on with your presentation.

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COMMENTS: Do you have any additional concerns about any of the concepts or area? If so, what are they?

- It is of primary concern to residents around the University that the mixed use zone be no more than ½ block off of 8th Street. Ninth Avenue should not be carried through to 20th Street. The location of the City Pool near the high density lower income housing in that area is too important to be sacrificed.
- I like some of the ideas for 20th Street.
- I am very concerned about 8th Street and how from 12th Avenue South to Main Avenue, it is a huge dangerous barrier for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Two rows of Linden trees on 8th Street between 20th and 24th Avenues are wonderful and provide a beautiful gateway to the city. I hate the idea of them being destroyed.
- Find a way to have Concordia students use the sidewalk rather than crossing 8th. Eliminate the ugly “no turn on red” signs. I have seen confrontations between autos and students crossing. Students do not always obey signs. I am now driving through neighborhoods, 11th Street, to avoid one minute plus wait from 8th to 12th Avenue going east. I like median concept, but am concerned by the increased traffic on 11th especially if it changes to a two-way from 12th Avenue to Main Avenue. Adding additional lights (signals) on 8th will increase this. Will this be an issue by Hopkins School over time? The Cam Town concept keeps showing up. I believe that this is not a well received concept. Why is it still showing up on the conceptual plans?
- Keep pool where it is at. It is centralized. Central Moorhead is being robbed of all of its positive features for people (families) to move back to our neighborhood schools. What next?
- Bus routes most traveled – no plan to increase accessibility for those without vehicles. Sounds like major money spent on concrete and yuppyville versus reality of what students, aging population and handicap individuals need.
- Provides for those who have the most money and neglects service workers, teachers, those that work at minimum wage. Landscaping is not a basic need. We have people coming out of treatment centers clean and sober with no place to live but the street. They can't afford the housing. There's no mention of half-way houses to transition people and support them in the growth plan. We also don't have a plan of action for youth. They need a drug and alcohol free entertainment dance hall.
- Having a pedestrian crosswalk by the cemetery is something Concordia students would give anything to have. We absolutely need something like this to increase pedestrian safety.
- The approach to the city from I94 down 8th Street needs a boulevard. Trees would greatly benefit from a continuation of the median with trees.
- I think city pool on 20th should be made part of the Gateway. City and university/colleges should jointly address mass parking. I do not want to see either institution buy up residential property to create parking!
- I still do not see how we are discouraging conversions of single family homes to apartments. This is written in the *University Gateway* area. In my neighborhood, I think at least two more single homes will be for sale soon. I think the only interested buyers will be landlord types. There is nothing right now that would pull a family back into the neighborhood.
- South 8th Street (south of 20th Avenue) needs to be wider, though I have no idea where the funding would come from.
- Of the ½ blocks in yellow on the concept plans, west 8th between 6th and 7th Avenues and east 8th between 5th and 6th Avenues are unlikely to be redeveloped. Is it worth doing any more than trying to figure out how to spiff up the 4th?
- The pool could move to the south side of 9th Avenue. The avenue would offer an important new access to the campuses.
- So far I like what you are doing. Keep up the good work.