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**Waco 25<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor Study Waco Walks and  
Neighborhood Workshop #1**

**Draft Recap Document**

**November 29, 2023**

**Introduction**

The first Waco 25<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor Study Neighborhood Workshop was held on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, from 10:30am – 12:00pm. The Open House occurred after the City hosted a Waco Walks event which took place nearby from 9:00am – 10:30am. Over 40 residents participated in this walking tour and neighborhood workshop event. Workshop participants reviewed the corridor’s existing conditions and were encouraged to leave feedback at several stations regarding the community’s vision for the future of the corridor. An overview of the exhibits and the high-level takeaways are described in the following sections.



## Waco Walk Photos





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## Waco Walks Notes

- On Nov.1945 the 25<sup>th</sup> Street movie theatre opened
- Provident Heights Elementary School dates back to 1904 in the Waco city directory
- Covered rest zones near intersections
- ADA standards incorporated throughout the corridor
- Owner of Tortilleria Bustos is a family owned and operated business. He indicated that parking could be improved and traffic speed was an issue
- Owner of La Nueva Michoacana has been operating since 2010 and moved to the area because it was welcoming
- Reducir a 2 carriles (Reduce 25<sup>th</sup> street to 2 lanes to reduce speeding)
- Comments from participant on a wheel chair:
  - I have had to go on to the street to access the sidewalks and need support to navigate
  - Curb cuts to no where
  - ADA ramps are needed
- Shade and greenway is needed
- More food trucks at Taqueria Santa Fe
- Space would be great for a playground
- Owner of Bertha's Bakery:
  - Family owned and operated business for 30 years
  - Owns the entire corner
  - Has lived in Waco for 40 years and moved to the area because it is safe and the Fire Department presence adds security to the area
  - She envisions a park/open space to compliment restaurant and food stands on her property for the community to gather
- The corridor is a key connector that could also accommodate bike lanes
- This is the corridor of dreams. People have moved to the corridor and are realizing their dreams
- Trash cans and repaving everything to make it a walkable space
- Plants/trees other things that are aesthetic treatment. Make seating available along the corridor
  - Participants commented on larger old growth trees in neighborhoods that suddenly stopped and are non-existent along 25<sup>th</sup> Street.
- It is a street that is patched with tar and this makes it unpleasant especially in the summer. Need to fix the roads
- The street needs lights on both sides
- Uniform signage or standards so that the corridor look better
- Safe and modern intersection that incorporate audible crosswalks in both Spanish and English



- The corridor has lots of art opportunities, with murals to highlight the Hispanic established culture
- Ramps and sidewalks are needed. Too many existing sidewalks lead to no accessible crossings
- If you are in a wheel chair it is impossible to navigate
- There is lots of noise due to traffic and speeding
  - A participant commented on feeling unsafe at times walking on sidewalk as cars sped through.
- Gateway for the corridor needs to be; safe, welcoming/bienvenidos and noticeable.
- A timeline to learn about the culture or history of the corridor
- The corridor is a gateway of prosperity
- Bring in businesses from other countries
- On walking neighborhood block (Morrow Avenue to 26<sup>th</sup> Street to Gorman Avenue)
  - Comment on gaps and uneven sidewalks from neighborhood into 25<sup>th</sup> Street made it difficult for individuals with strollers
- Owner of El Pueblo Boutique
  - Started in La Pulga (Flea Market) by La Salle Avenue prior to moving to existing location
  - Moved to 25<sup>th</sup> Street because of the economic potential and exposure.
  - Began with the Boutique to sell quinceñeras, proms, and sweet 16 dresses. Expanded and renovated the industrial space to host the complimentary quinceñeras, prom, and sweet 16 events.
- Waco Fire Station 6
  - Participants had many personal stories of visiting the historic 25<sup>th</sup> Street Theater and visiting shoe store on 25<sup>th</sup> street (assuming this is Paul's Shoe Service:  
<http://wacohistoryproject.org/firstperson/paulconcilio.html> )
- Where are the moments along the corridor for people to rest, sit, and have the ability to eat outside the restaurants
- Building facade grants should be available to assist in cleaning up the corridor
- Parking spaces are needed for businesses to flourish and be successful
- Participants recommended that team to look at historical 25<sup>th</sup> street photos from Gildersleeve

NOTE: These meeting notes were prepared by Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. Should any corrections or modifications be required to these notes, corrections will be noted in the subsequent meeting notes.



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**Summary Word Cloud:**







## Open House Meeting Photos





## Station 1: About You!

For the first exercise, Open House attendees were shown an overall project boundary map of the corridor and were asked to place a [red pin](#) locating where they lived and a [blue pin](#) locating where they worked. The responses are summarized below.



### Results:

1. Live inside the project boundary: 4
2. Live outside of the project boundary: 16
3. Work inside the project boundary: 2
4. Work outside the project boundary: 7





**Station 2: What You Love About the Corridor**

Station 2 asked participants to write down the reasons they love the corridor and what brings them to the area.

BOARD  
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**WHAT YOU LOVE ABOUT THE CORRIDOR |  
 LO QUE TE GUSTA DEL CORREDOR**

TELL US WHY YOU LOVE TO VISIT THE 25TH STREET CORRIDOR. WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

CUÉNTANOS POR QUÉ LE ENCANTA VISITAR EL CORREDOR DE LA CALLE 25. ¿QUÉ TE TRAE POR AQUÍ?

*Handwritten notes:*

- Grocery store
- Local Businesses  
Food, Boutiques, Ice cream etc
- Local business, tight-knit community, pride.
- Casa De Bendicion
- Todos los Negocios
- LOCAL CULTURE - place for learning & experiences
- So many local small businesses run by families who live nearby => real sense of community (But I would like to more easily know when the businesses are open!)
- home away from home [welcoming] (businesses & cultural identity)
- getting to know an important part of the community







**Comments:**

1. Grocery store
2. Local businesses, food, boutiques, ice cream, etc.
3. Local businesses, tight-knit community, pride
4. Casa de Bendicion
5. Todos los Negocios
6. Local culture – place for learning and experiences
7. So many local small businesses, run by families who live nearby -> real sense of community (but I would like to more easily know when the businesses are open!)
8. Home away from home [welcoming] (businesses and cultural identity)
9. Getting to know an important part of the community



## Station 6: Overall Vision

The focus of this station was for participants to leave key words or phrases that described their overall vision of the 25<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor.

BOARD  
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### OVERALL VISION | VISIÓN GENERAL

WHAT KEY WORDS OR PHRASES WOULD YOU USE TO DESCRIBE YOUR OVERALL VISION OF THE 25TH STREET CORRIDOR? PLEASE KEEP RESPONSES TO SEVERAL WORDS

ESCRIBA CUALQUIER PALABRA O FRASE CLAVE QUE LE VENGA A LA MENTE CUANDO PIENSE EN LA VISIÓN GENERAL DEL CORREDOR DE LA CALLE 25; POR FAVOR MANTENGA LAS RESPUESTAS EN VARIAS PALABRAS.

Pedestrian Friendly Well Lit

Culturally Vibrant ♡/Aurals

ADA Compliant

Shaded Structures

Please keep the lovely character + cultural diversity  
↑ Yes!

Consider two way streets for major thoroughfare?

Must Fix Roads - Sidewalks

more TREES

TRASH CANS

Live Music

- signs on businesses to tell what they offer - party room etc.

Public Parking

Have a big street party invite the City (fund raiser)

celebrate the cultural identity of the corridor

honoring the cultural identity of business owners



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**Comments:**

1. Pedestrian friendly
2. Well lit
3. Culturally vibrant/murals
4. ADA compliant
5. Shade structures
6. Please keep the lovely character and cultural diversity ← yes!
7. Consider two-way streets for major thoroughfare?
8. Must fix roads and sidewalks
9. More trees
10. Trash cans
11. Live music
12. Honoring the cultural identity and business owners
13. Signs on businesses to tell what they offer – Party room etc.
14. Public parking
15. Have a big street party invite the city (fundraiser)
16. Celebrate the cultural identity of the corridor

**Summary Word Cloud**







## Station 8: Visual Preference Survey

This station asked attendants to vote by placing stickers on images they felt embodied the character of the 25<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor.

BOARD  
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VISUAL PREFERENCE SURVEY | ENCUESTA DE PREFERENCIA VISUAL

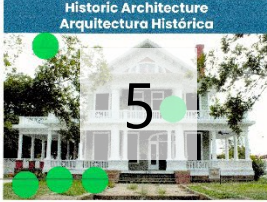











Displayed are several photos of elements found along the corridor. Review the following photos of proposed elements.

**Place stickers on any of the images provided here you think embody the character of 25th street and that you want to see more of in the future.**

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Revise las siguientes fotografías de los elementos propuestos.

**Agregue pegatinas en cualquiera de las imágenes a continuación que crea que encarna el carácter de la Calle 25 y quieres ver más.**

Historic Architecture Arquitectura Histórica	Art Deco Architecture Arquitectura Art Déco	Retro Storefronts Fachadas Retro
		
Practical Art Arte Práctico	Rustic Style Estilo Rústico	Modern Storefronts Fachadas Modernas
		
Murals and Plantings Murales y Plantaciones	Colorful Tilework Azulejos Coloridos	Drought Tolerant Plantings Plantaciones Tolerantes a la Sequía
		
Spanish Column Columnas Españolas	Art Deco Glasswork Cristalería Art Déco	Craftsman Style Homes Casas Estilo Artesano
		

25TH STREET CORRIDOR | EI CORREDOR DE LA CALLE 25

Waco, Texas

OPEN HOUSE

Kimley»Horn  
10/14/2022

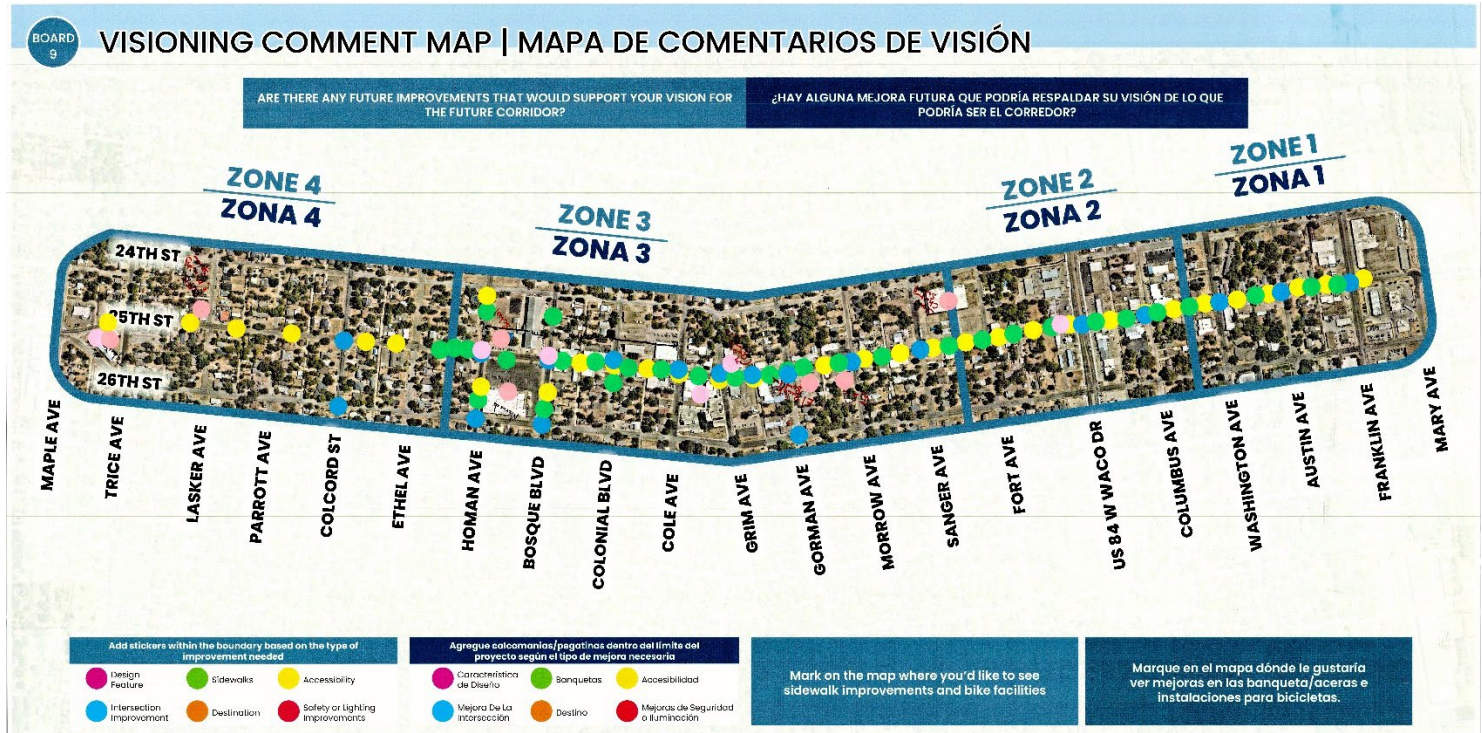
### Top 3 Results:

1. Murals and Plantings – 14
2. (Tie) Colorful Tilework & Art Deco Architecture – 12
3. (Tie) Drought Tolerant Plantings & Art Deco Glasswork – 11



## Station 9: Visioning Comment Map

Station 9 was an interactive map where participants were asked to place stickers for possible improvement locations, write in future improvements that supported their vision of the future corridor, and mark potential locations for improved sidewalk and biking infrastructure.



### Comments:

1. Iglesia
2. Ruff's & meeting space
3. School
4. Mercado
5. Christmas on 25<sup>th</sup>
6. Owner wants a park
7. El Pueblo Boutique
8. Iglesia
9. Cloud Charter School





### Station 10: Historical, Cultural, Architectural, and Natural Elements

The focus of this station was to collect input on what specific/key historical, cultural, architectural, or natural elements locals would like to see highlighted in the corridor.

BOARD  
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## HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, ARCHITECTURAL, AND NATURAL ELEMENTS | ELEMENTOS HISTORICOS, CULTURALES, ARQUITECTONICOS Y NATURALES

### Examples | Ejemplos

Important People | Gente Importante



Historic Events | Eventos Históricos



Historic Landmarks | Monumentos Históricos



Cultural Heritage | Herencia Cultural



Historic Artifacts | Artefactos Históricos



What are some key pieces of the 25th Street's heritage and history that should be incorporated into future public realm improvements? This could be a historic icon, monument, historic event, cultural events, etc.

¿Cuáles son algunas piezas clave del patrimonio/herencia y la historia de la Calle 25 que deberían incorporarse en futuras mejoras del ámbito público? Podría ser un ícono histórico, un monumento, un evento histórico, una estructura, un evento cultural, etc.

*25th St. Theater (Thanks WFDI)*

*Timeline of evolution of street*

*Paul's Shoe (Concilios) Avenue of Dreams*

*Sign - La (Calle) Bi envenido (The coming of the new which they are by language)*

*Safe selling places for street vendors - paleteros, elateras, etc*

*more colorful*

*Highlighting local businesses in what they do where they come from (culture)*

*Highlighting culture of business owners - murals - stories of historical figures in Hispanic history*

*Cultural ties of business owners*

## 25TH STREET CORRIDOR | EI CORREDOR DE LA CALLE 25

Waco, Texas

OPEN HOUSE



Kimley»Horn  
11/14/2023





**Comments:**

1. 25<sup>th</sup> Street Theater (thanks WFD)
2. Timeline of evolution of street
3. Paul's Shoe (concilios)
4. SISK? – welcome Bienvenido (welcome those who may be intimidated by language)
5. Avenue of dreams
6. Safe selling
7. Places for street vendors – paleteros, eloteras, etc.
8. Cultural ties of business owners
9. Cultura
10. Art highlighting local businesses in what they do / where they come from (culture)
11. More colorful
12. Highlighting culture of business owners
  - Murals
  - Statues of historical figures in Hispanic history



## Station 11: Improvement Priorities

This station had participants vote for their top improvement priorities by casting coins into jars representing the 8 priorities. Each participant was given 5 coins to vote with.

BOARD  
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### IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES



All types of corridor improvement projects are extremely valuable to the long-term success of a vibrant 25th Street.

However, because funding is limited, the City is seeking to understand which projects you want seen implemented first along the corridor. Please rank the following corridor improvement project types based on how you think the City should implement projects along 25th Street:

You can place your coins all in one jar or spread out across different jars - however you would like to do it!

#### PRIORITY TOPICS

**Priority 1: Constructing New Sidewalks** – Identify areas lacking connectivity and build new infill sidewalks that integrate with existing infrastructure.

**Priority 2: Rehabilitating Existing Sidewalks** – Address issues such as deterioration, uneven surfaces, and lack of accessibility to improve overall functionality and safety.

**Priority 3: Public Art, Public Spaces, and Other Placemaking Elements** – Invest in elements that enhance the identity and sense of community within the corridor such as public plazas, pocket parks, murals, or signage.

**Priority 4: Installation of street furniture** – Enhance the comfort, functionality, and aesthetic appeal of public spaces by investing in street furniture such as benches, trash receptacles, bike racks, and landscaping.

**Priority 5: Installing Lighting Improvements** – Improve the overall safety and aesthetics of the corridor by installing more lighting or replacing old structures.

**Priority 6: Constructing New Pedestrian Crossing Infrastructure** – Enhance safety for pedestrians by investing in infrastructure such as curb extensions, enhanced crosswalks, or pedestrian signals.

**Priority 7: Traffic Improvements (such as speed limit reductions, new stop signs, new traffic lights, etc.)** – Improve the corridor by investing in improvements to lessen the severity of accidents and congestion.

**Priority 8: Constructing On-Street Parking Spaces** – Improve the experience of businesses and customers on the corridor by constructing on-street parking.

#### HOW TO SELECT YOUR PRIORITIES



**STEP 1: GRAB A PACK OF COINS**



**STEP 2: REVIEW THE 8 PRIORITY TOPIC AREAS**



**STEP 3: VOTE ON HOW YOU THINK THE CITY SHOULD ALIGN THEIR FUTURE PRIORITIES!**

## 25TH STREET CORRIDOR | EL CORREDOR DE LA CALLE 25

Waco, Texas

OPEN HOUSE



Kimley»Horn  
11/14/2023





**Ranked Results:**

- 1. Rehabilitating Existing Sidewalks - 43**
- 2. Constructing New Sidewalks - 37**
- 3. (Tie) Public Art, Public Spaces, and other Placemaking Elements & Constructing New Pedestrian Crossing Infrastructure - 24**
4. Traffic Improvements - 17
5. Installing Lighting Improvements - 14
6. Constructing On-Street Parking Spaces - 12
7. Installation of Street Furniture - 9





### Station 13: Comments and Questions

The final interactive station for the meeting was an open comment and question board where participants could leave their final thoughts regarding the corridor study.

BOARD  
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## COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS | COMENTARIOS Y PREGUNTAS

DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK YOU WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE ABOUT THE 25TH STREET CORRIDOR STUDY?

¿TIENE ALGÚN COMENTARIO ADICIONAL QUE LE GUSTARÍA BRINDAR SOBRE EL ESTUDIO DEL CORREDOR DE LA CALLE 25?

Grants like the downtown TIF grants to help businesses

ART & Murals on local businesses to highlight the culture and the business.

Improving the sidewalks in a way that makes fitness a priority safe walking

Lighting & Greenery

Traffic calming measures

ADA compliance

Near term: curbs by new sidewalks near fire station

Green spaces

Increase involvement of people who live in neighborhood

One way streets make it hard for ADA + transit users on left side of street to get in/out of lift van <sup>or impossible</sup>

Publicize when businesses are open  
- perhaps a website that gets regularly updated with links to each business & what they have.



**Comments:**

1. Grants like the downtown TIF grants to help businesses
2. Arts & murals on local businesses to highlight the culture and business
3. Improving the sidewalks in a way that makes fitness a priority
4. Safe walking
5. Light! And greenery
6. Traffic calming measures
7. ADA compliance
8. Near term: curbs by new sidewalks near fire station
9. Green spaces
10. Increase involvement of people who live in neighborhood
11. One-way streets make it hard (or impossible) for ADA transit users on left side of street to get in/out of lift van
12. Publicize when businesses are open – perhaps a website that gets regularly updated with links to each business and what they have