

COMMUNITY MARKET HIGHLIGHTS

Thanks to everyone who visited our Munster Market Idea Booth to share innovative ideas and input on the Calumet Ridge Streetscape!

Event Date: August 4th, 2020 | 3pm – 7pm

Stationed in Community Park, near the Lions Club Shelter, the booth featured tools for folks to share input. Farm fresh-themed idea posters were pinned up, comment maps and image preference boards were posted, open-ended comment sheets were rolled out, and plenty of sanitizer and wipes, of course. Especially in the age of COVID, public placemaking and safer streets continue to be at the forefront of all our minds. From jotting down and mapping ideas to conversation with residents and visitors, the planning team scored so much knowledge, input and ideas on what people viewed as important issues and key opportunities for the Calumet-Ridge Streetscape areas.



Safety, safety, safety...

First and foremost, one thing was made crystal clear... Calumet Avenue and Ridge Road need to maintain vehicular access while also supporting safer pedestrian and bike movements along and across the corridors. Especially given the proximity to major bike routes along the Monon Trail and Little Calumet River Trail, Calumet Avenue and Ridge Road today are perceived to fall short when it comes to safety and accessibility.



Questions come with answers...

While chatting with residents and passersby we fielded a few questions about the planning process that are worth circling back on!

What is a streetscape and why should we care about it? Streetscape refers to the public rights of way associated with a roadway. This generally includes the roadway itself, sidewalks, parkways and the open spaces in-between. As Munster continues to plan for new high-quality developments, the Calumet-Ridge corridors are opportunities to support walking, biking, and an overall sense of place in the community.

How is this study funded? This project is partially funded by the *Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program*. The plan will include a potential funding plan for implementing the improvements. Funding for long term projects is available through a variety of public infrastructure grants. Near term projects may be funded by the Town through its capital improvement budget. Some projects can be implemented by private developers as part of a redevelopment project.

What is going on with the Train Station? So glad you asked! The Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) is proposing a southern branch extension of the existing South Shore Railroad to reach Munster. The planned station area is at the northeast corner of Ridge Road and Manor Avenue, just west of the Monon Trail. For more information, please visit the [West Lake Corridor website](#).

Who is the planning team? There are four primary members of our planning team and that starts with you! **(1)** Residents, business owners and stakeholders, you are the guiding element of this plan -- share what you want both in-person (workshop to come) and online via the tools herein. Take the [streetscape poll](#) and [share ideas](#). **(2)** Munster's Town staff. **(3)** Our steering committee, which is comprised of community partners, business owners and residents just like you! And lastly, **(4)** creative consultants - we hate that word "consultants" -- we promise we aren't robots. Our consultant team includes urban design and engagement specialists (Teska Associates), and transportation planners (Sam Schwartz Engineering).





You Said It / We Wrote It / Doodled It...

Now let's get into the good stuff.

Connections and Gaps. When asked about connections and gaps along and across the corridor, one thing was common: Calumet Avenue and Ridge Road are generally avoided as pedestrian routes, even for those folks who may live or work nearby. Some specific comments follow below:

- Signal timings at Calumet/Ridge and Calumet/Broadmoor were perceived to be not long enough for pedestrians (especially elderly) to safely cross.
- Where residential neighborhoods abut commercial properties, some reported they would like to see better connections at the rear sides of businesses.
- Sidewalks along Calumet/Ridge are perceived to be too narrow for families with children to feel safe using them.
- Many felt that the South Shore Railroad expansion would bring new development and activity to the area and looked forward to a more walkable character for Ridge Road.
- Calumet Avenue is perceived to be a high-speed corridor and many folks requested street treatments that would calm traffic in this area.

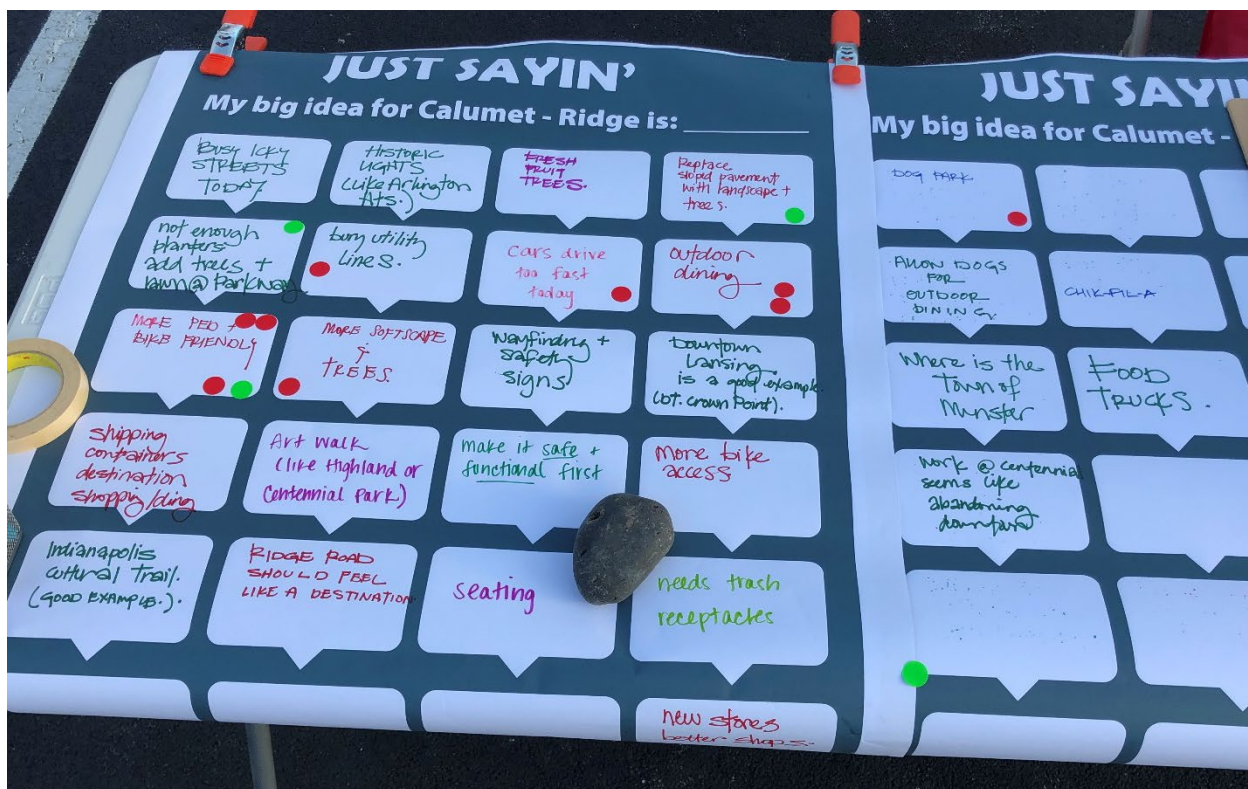
Street Treatments. Participants were asked to review a series of images and voted on which street treatments provide the most value. Images and rankings are listed below:

- Plazas + Flex Spaces (11 votes)
- Murals + Public Art (7 votes)
- Protected Bike Lanes (5 votes)
- Wayfinding Signage (4 votes)
- Updated Lighting (3 votes)
- Trees + Plantings (3 votes)
- Safer Intersections (3 votes)
- Wider sidewalks (2 votes)



Of all the great ideas you shared with us at the Community Market In terms of "wants" - the following ideas were the ones reiterated the most:

- Make the streetscape safe and functional first.
- More pedestrian and bike friendly amenities.
- More softscape and greening, including trees, planters, and lawn parkways.
- Calm traffic – cars drive too fast today!
- Bury – or relocate – the overhead utility lines.
- Refer to positive streetscape examples, such as Lansing, Downtown Crown Point Indianapolis, and Arlington Heights (IL).
- Incorporate public art, such as at Highland or Centennial Park.
- Make Ridge Road a destination with unique experiences such as outdoor dining, seating, public art, and food trucks.



Missed the event? Want to tell us more? Our ears are open...

Use the tools on this website! Take the [streetscape poll](#) and [share ideas](#). Stay tuned -- a second neighborhood poll and community workshop are in the works. Click the 'follow' button today to receive project updates direct to your inbox.



3-Quick Steps to Get Involved

1. Visit the [website](https://munster-streetscape.org) and click 'follow' today to receive project updates
2. Take the [streetscape poll](#)
3. Send your comments to the [share ideas](#) page

Thank you, Munster!

Most importantly... thank you for supporting the Town of Munster and taking the time to be a part of the Streetscape Planning effort! We truly value your feedback and look forward to working with you to create a streetscape plan that brings out the best of Munster.

Cheers,
The Planning Team