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CALUMET-RIDGE STREETSCAPE PLAN

COMMITTEE MEETING #2

November 18, 2020 | video conference | 2:30 pm

During the meeting, we will use an online input tool. Please bring your smart phone and be prepared to log on to www.menti.com

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/98256307233?pwd=MzE0S29rTVVJQzcweGhoaGYvQ01SQT09>

Meeting ID: 982 5630 7233, Passcode: 241193, Dial by location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting Agenda

- 1. Introductions, project goals + scope review**
- 2. Community outreach results:** stakeholder interviews, poll #1 results
- 3. Concept plan presentation:** elements + concept plan alternatives
- 4. Traffic considerations:** methodologies + traffic impacts
- 5. Agency outreach + considerations**
- 6. Workshop activity + discussion**
- 7. Next Steps:** poll #2 + public meeting

Agenda packet includes:

- 1. Public Outreach Summaries (Farmers Market, Poll #1, Stakeholder interviews)*
- 2. Framework Plan Enlargements (minimum vs maximum roadway changes)*
- 3. Streetscape Furnishings Options (refined vs rustic)*
- 4. Gateway and Wayfinding Sign Concepts*
- 5. Public Art Opportunities*
- 6. Recommended Plant Lists*

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



MUNSTER | CALUMET – RIDGE STREETScape PLAN

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS | KEY THEMES

Prepared by Teska 09/28/2020

DATE	TIME	INTERVIEW	
7/27	1pm	Lee Ann Mellon, Committee Member, Town President	lamellon@munster.org
7/27	2pm	Dan Buksa, Board of Zoning Appeals	djbuksa@yahoo.com
7/27	3pm	Brian Specht, Plan Commission, Economic Development	brian@acbanker.com
7/27	4pm	Ken Schoon, Committee Member, Town Council	kschoon@munster.org
7/29	8am	Don Erminger, Strack and Van Til	ermingerdl@s-vt.com
7/29	10am	Rachel Branagan, Committee member, architect, stay at home mom, active in the community	rachelbranagan@gmail.com
7/29	11am	Hope Martin, Committee, HWC Engineering	hmartin@hwcengineering.com
7/29	1pm	Chuck Gardiner, Former Parks Director, Council member and plan commission	cgardiner@munster.org
7/29	2pm	Eman Ibrahim, Planner at NIRPC	eibrahim@nirpc.org
7/29	3pm	Scott Milne, Milne Plumbing, property owner	scottmilne1962@gmail.com
7/29	4pm	Anthony Christopher, Top Tier Nutrition, Committee	team24nwi@yahoo.com
8/05	2:30pm	Dan Straka, Owner of Sweet Tooth, Committee	sweettoothmunster@gmail.com
8/19	1pm	Bill Baker, Chairman of Plan Commission and Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission	castleridge@sbcglobal.net
8/19	2pm	Bruce Boyer, Local developer (Munster Shops)	bruce@boyerconstruction.com
8/19	3pm	Patrick Owens, resident	patrick_owens@sbcglobal.net
8/19	4pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ginny Dickman-Lopez, MOMs club president in Munster Joe Austin, Researcher that works at U of C Joe Sinclair, Scout leader and is very interested in active transportation Paul Nelson, helps run What's Up Munster Paul Rotatori, steering committee member former president of the south shore trails advocacy group 	virginia.dickman@gmail.com omegabrews@yahoo.com sinclair.joseph@gmail.com pjnelson1000@gmail.com paul.rotatori@gmail.com
09/01	8:30am	Steve Tripinfeldas, Assistant Superintendent, School Town of Munster	ststrip@munster.us
09/23	12:30pm	Steve Tulowitski	tulo@munster.org

CALUMET AVE

1. Police crossing guards monitor the Calumet/Ridge intersection for school kids
2. Consider an additional ped crossing between Broadmoor and Ridge
3. South of Ridge:
 - a. students live south of Jewel development; all kids walk to schools and cross north at Ridge or south at Fisher;
 - b. students cross at the Community Park entry drive traffic signal – can this intersection be improved?
 - c. consider a crossing at Briar;
 - d. Students will cross illegally at Calumet
4. Sidewalks are perceived as unsafe, especially between Interstate and Broadmoor
5. Trucks and cars moving at high speeds.
6. No left turns permitted from Seberger and 30th (signage only), lacks enforcement, comments about adding landscaped medians at Calumet as a way to enforce no left turns onto Calumet
7. Consider smarter traffic signals that are synchronized to meet the Town's transportation goals
8. Utility poles should be relocated to the rear of properties/alleys
9. Reduce curb cuts
10. Incorporate sustainable materials / practices
11. Decorative signal poles and light poles should be incorporated
12. Calumet/Ridge intersection is challenging for trucks to make turns (use all 4 lanes to make turns)
13. Munster Shops (Five Guys)
 - a. Designed as an internal streetscape with ped amenities, wide sidewalks
 - b. 135' depth, 22' drive aisle, 18' parking spaces, parking bumpers
 - c. Installed and maintains high visibility plantings at parking lot perimeter and ROW; requires a lot of maintenance. Planters are occasionally hit by trucks and reconstructed but considered by the developer/owner to be worth the extra maintenance to improve the curb appeal of the development
14. Consider a traffic signal at 30th, offset with Panera access
15. Consider a 'hawk signal' at 30th
16. Surrounding neighborhood streets lack sidewalks

RIDGE ROAD

1. Major student crossings occur at Columbia/Ridge and Calumet/Ridge
2. Consider an additional ped crossing between Harrison and Calumet to serve the neighborhoods (such as Jackson)
3. The two Harrison signals don't feel safe to pedestrians, the timing caters to cars
4. Unlike Calumet, Ridge has more opportunities, more promise. General support to improve Ridge Road to feel more like a walkable downtown with wider sidewalks and amenities.
5. During peak times, the Ridge/Calumet intersection is backed up along Ridge Road to Dairy Queen and Howards
6. Ridge Road runs parallel to the interstate, used as a more efficient way to travel south without having to access I-94; is used as a cut through between Calumet City to Indianapolis Blvd
7. Outdoor dining will continue to be more desirable in the future

8. Ridge Road can and should be more walkable
9. Ridge Road sees additional traffic when an accident occurs on I-94
10. Consider smarter traffic signals that are synchronized to meet the Town's transportation goals
11. Consider additional signals for more pedestrian crossings
12. Strack and Van Til (Strack's)
 - a. Attractive landscaped perimeter / Town entry sign is a gateway into town
 - b. Strack's parking lot is challenged; slope impedes visibility and egress
 - c. Truck deliveries enter via South Ave at Homan and exit through the parking lot.
Deliveries occur 7am – 10pm, 54' trailer
 - d. 245 parking stalls, however parking is insufficient during major holidays (nearby Church allows for employee parking during holidays)
13. Vehicular conflicts between McDs and strip development (Jimmy Johns) across the street.
Consider making McD's a RI/RO to minimize conflicts
14. Milne Plumbing Supply
 - a. Trucks access via the rear alley
15. Utility poles should be relocated to the rear of properties/alleys
16. Decorative signal poles and light poles should be incorporated
17. Flexible public places / plazas would get use if designed well. Centennial Park has movies in the park, dance recitals, Parks Dept activities)
18. If an improved parking / events plaza were to occur at Meadow Lane, maintain residential access to the north
19. Kaske House and Bieker Woods at Columbia/Ridge – historical interpretation about Munster, school/educational programming; Boy Scouts help maintain the Kaske House – can scouts get involved in streetscape implementation
20. Good crossings are at White Oak/ Ridge and Columbia/Ridge
21. Consider roundabouts if possible (Roundabout exists at Forest Ave / Broadmoor)
22. Reduce curb cuts
23. Incorporate sustainable materials / practices
24. The Monon Trail needs to be better aligned at Ridge. People dismount and cross at the signal
25. Some drivers think Ridge Road has on street parking and illegally park there
26. Surrounding neighborhood streets lack sidewalks

BROADMOOR AVE

1. Roadway would be a good opportunity for biking, however it is not marked

JACKSON / MONROE / MADISON / JEFFERSON (PRESIDENT STREETS)

1. These streets see speeding traffic, possible bypasses for Calumet to travel north-south

SEBERGER

1. Acts as a 'shortcut' through the neighborhood, speeding traffic
2. Can Seberger be more bike friendly?

HARRISON

1. Harrison signals are currently timed to help traffic, but are not supportive of pedestrian crossings.
2. Consider realigning Harrison Signals (if private property becomes available)

BIKE LANES

1. Indiana has great 'bike highways', but going off of the trail requires more creativity to access businesses and downtowns.
2. Columbia is not a safe route
3. Broadmoor is better for bikers
4. Should be protected / off street
5. Consider bike lanes that have movement and interest (curvilinear) so they are not so monotonous

MAINTENANCE

1. Concerns about how the streetscape will be maintained; "These things (maintenance) need to be put into the recipe"
2. Budget for Maintenance

PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT

1. Many families are moving to Munster from Illinois. Main attractors are schools and hospital.
2. Public perception that condos are better maintained and therefore more desirable than apartments.
3. Density may not be a popular
4. Centennial Village: condos above commercial. 4 buildings planned, 4 stories; hotel is 4 stories; underpass access road planned
5. Shops of Munster – parking is very crowded (lot depth is 135' and travel lanes are 22'); some people park on Ridgeway to access this development
6. Outdoor dining is addressed with special use permits (such as 313 Brewery)

AESTHETICS

1. Past architectural treatments and references, bungalows, wood beams, railroad history, Town Hall – colonial; Not modern treatments, but arts and crafts, mixture of steel and wood
2. Historic Munster brownstones can be found behind Mishkenut
3. Munster is distinct because of its connection to the historic shoreline:
 - a. Shoreline / Indian Trail historically was a beach, then a stagecoach route 1850s, then US federal Highway / Route 6. When I-94 was built, Route 6 was relocated to I-94
 - b. History is shared with Lansing, IL and Highland, IN
 - c. Ridge Rd geometry is angled as was the shoreline (littoral drift)
4. Munster's color scheme: red and white (High School colors)
5. Aesthetics should incorporate rustic, native materials such as wood and stone
6. Concrete planters / walls with reveals for public art (mosaic)
7. Reference to Lake Michigan, Indiana Dunes, historic shoreline, smooth stones and pebbles
8. Murals should be incorporated
9. Incorporate art projects (similar to Chicago Cows on Parade)
10. Entry sign – see Highland's entry sign, backlit channel letters on stone
11. Antique lights along Ridge Road have mismatched bulbs, broken banner arms
12. Add more pocket parks, benches, places to gather, events
13. Add branded signage
14. The connections to the land (historic shoreline, native plants) connects and unifies us all
15. "The grand calumet river was the most polluted river in N America (steel mills, chemical plants, oil refineries, no fish living in the water. Over the last 50 years has been a major change, Indiana was once called the armpit of America. Now the air is so much cleaner, salmon are spawning, blue herons seen, American eagles spotted, great egrets, tourism – people are coming here to see the lake and to see things. The area has changed terrificly and the streetscape is a part of that. " (Ken Schoon)

LANDSCAPING

1. Center medians would be positive improvements; limits left turn access, demonstrates long term improvements.
2. Add spring blooming plants / bulbs
3. Concerns that native plantings / rain gardens will look like weed patches (see Valparaiso's rain gardens)
4. Landscaping as a symbol of unity

COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY

1. Traffic and lane reductions may be a tough sell to the community – show how private properties remain intact
2. School PTO; Munster Neighborhood Crimewatch (community policing newsletter); What's Up Munster (facebook)
3. Explain how plans will eventually be implemented

PILOT PROJECTS

1. Focus on 2 block streetscape redevelopment along Ridge
2. Consider improving the ½ block of Meadow north of Ridge as formalized parking and a temporary events plaza; engage local businesses, food trucks, mural art on building
3. Consider a pilot on Calumet (Munster Donut, Johnny's Tap, Nat's Barber Shop, Florist)

EXAMPLES FROM OTHER COMMUNITIES

1. Lansing, IL Ridge Road implemented a road diet some years ago, well received by businesses and community
2. Park City Utah – parklets for temporary sidewalk dining
3. Downtown LaGrange and Western Springs example, Ogden is major connector and La Grange Road is walkable downtown.
4. Ridge Road in Homewood
5. Amsterdam bike lanes
6. Whiting, IN (119th St)
7. Highland, IN – Ridge Road becomes Old Highway, painted murals near ice cream shop
8. Crown Point / Valparaiso – revitalized corridors and downtown areas; rain gardens
9. Valparaiso – downtown district, Lincolnway Street. The community uses valet parking because the district is such a large draw; restaurants, parks, skating rink, decorative lighting, brick streets.
10. Amsterdam – large median with sculptures (rotating)

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

1. Funding opportunities – FTA Federal Transit Authority, streetscape funding, NIRPC can provide contacts to FTA for potential funding; emphasize TOD along Ridge Road
2. Munster Civic Foundation – funding for public projects (such as public art) may be applied to the streetscape plan



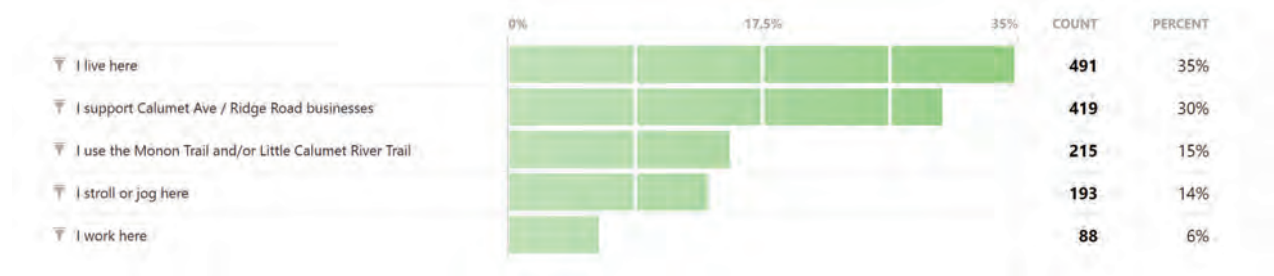
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Calumet-Ridge Streetscape Plan

Neighborhood Poll #1 Summary

Results are in! BIG thanks to the whopping **596** participants who shared input as part of the first ‘Calumet-Ridge Streetscape’ Neighborhood Poll. We received responses from people who feel a strong sense of connection to the Town of Munster. Respondents reported that they call Munster their home (35%), support Calumet Avenue / Ridge Road businesses (30%), Use the Monon Trail and/or Little Calumet River Trail (15%), Stroll or jog in the area (13%) and work in Munster (6%).

Poll #1 Participant Profile | Neighborhood Connection

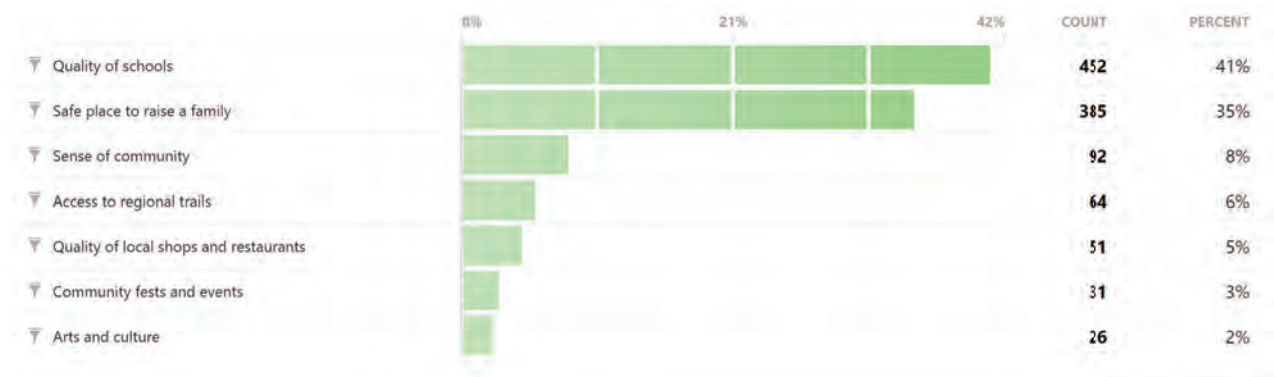




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What do you like about Munster?

When asked what folks like most about Munster, the top two responses were ‘**Quality of schools**’ (41%) and ‘**Safe place to raise a family**’ (35%), followed by ‘Sense of community’ (8%), ‘Access to regional trails’ (6%), ‘Quality of local shops and restaurants’ (5%), ‘Community fests and events’ (3%), and ‘Arts and culture’ (2%).





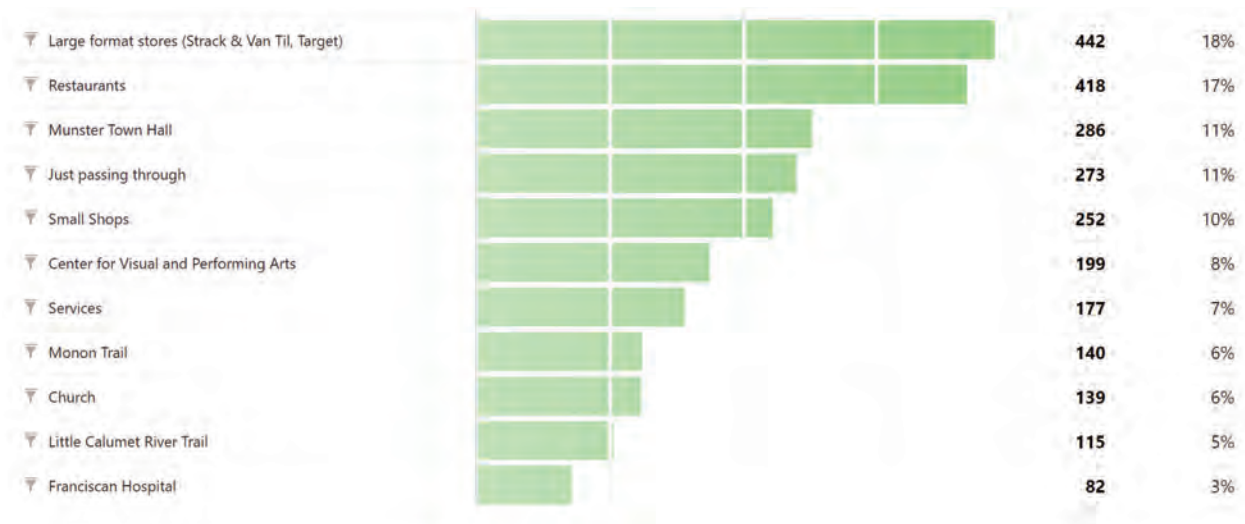
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Identify the reasons for trips to Calumet Ave / Ridge Rd during the past year.

When asked why participants visited Calumet Avenue / Ridge Road during the past year, the top four responses were **‘Large Format stores’** (18%), **‘Restaurants’** (17%), **‘Munster Town Hall’** (11%), and **‘Just passing through’** (11%). Other responses include **‘Small Shops’** (10%), **‘Center for Visual and Performing Arts’** (8%), **‘Services’** (7%), **‘Monon Trail’** (6%), **‘Church’** (6%), **‘Little Calumet River Trail’** (5%), and **‘Franciscan Hospital’** (3%).

51 individual comments were provided. Repeated responses and themes include:

- The Calumet Avenue / Ridge Road corridors are generally considered to be unattractive and unavoidable for those traveling to or from Munster.
- Other noted destinations include the Library, Schools, Post Office, Community Hospital, Gas Stations, and access to I- 80/94.
- Key quotes include:
 - *“Typically driving through. It is a heavily – trafficked area that is not necessarily a friendly environment to visit.”*
 - *“Would love to visit that area, but traffic is too fast to do anything but pass through.”*
 - *“Area is very car-centric, so visits are to stores, in and out. Would be nice to have more walkability, coffee shops, etc.”*





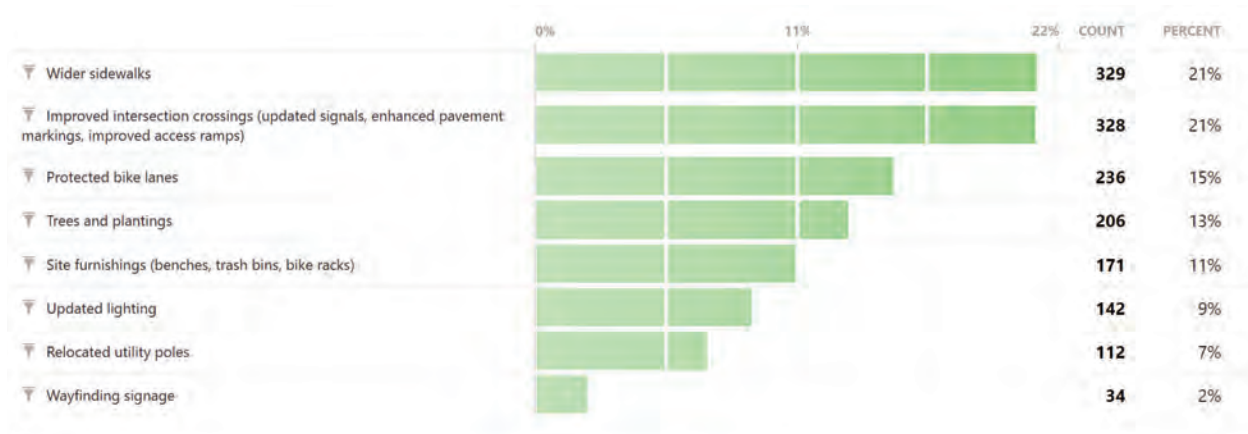
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How likely are you to bike or walk along the Calumet Ave / Ridge Road corridors if the following improvements were made?

When asked how likely participants were to bike or walk along Calumet Avenue / Ridge Road if certain improvements were made, the top three responses were **‘Wider sidewalks’** (21%), **‘Improved intersection crossings’** (21%), and **‘Protected bike lanes’** (15%). Other responses include **‘Trees and plantings’** (13%), **‘Site furnishings’** (11%), **‘Updated lighting’** (9%), **‘Relocated utility poles’** (7%), and **‘Wayfinding signage’** (2%).

92 individual comments were provided. Repeated responses and key themes include:

- Wider sidewalks and multi-use paths were noted as desirable, however channelized and dedicated on-street bike lanes were noted as undesirable.
- Streetscape furnishings (such as planter pots) should be carefully placed so as not to impede movement or motorist visibility.
- Landscape plantings should be well maintained and provide physical separation from roadway and sidewalks.
- Key quotes include:
 - *“Relocated utility poles, wider sidewalks, improved intersection crossings and protected bike lanes are all very critical.”*
 - *“I would not feel comfortable biking on the street but a bike lane on the sidewalk would be great.”*
 - *“Would be great if there was more distance between cars and where people would walk/ride bikes.”*





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If improvements were made, reorder the roadway crossing locations that would serve you best as a biker or walker.

When asked to prioritize intersections for better bike and pedestrian access, the Calumet Ave were generally ranked higher than the Ridge Road intersections. Intersections were ranked as follows:

1. **Calumet Ave at Ridge Road**
2. **Calumet Ave at the Target Development**
3. **Calumet Ave at Broadmoor Ave**
4. **Ridge Road at Columbia Ave**
5. **Ridge Road at Harrison Ave (east)**
6. **Ridge Road at Manor Ave**
7. **Ridge Road at Harrison Ave (west)**
8. **Ridge Road at Hohman Ave**





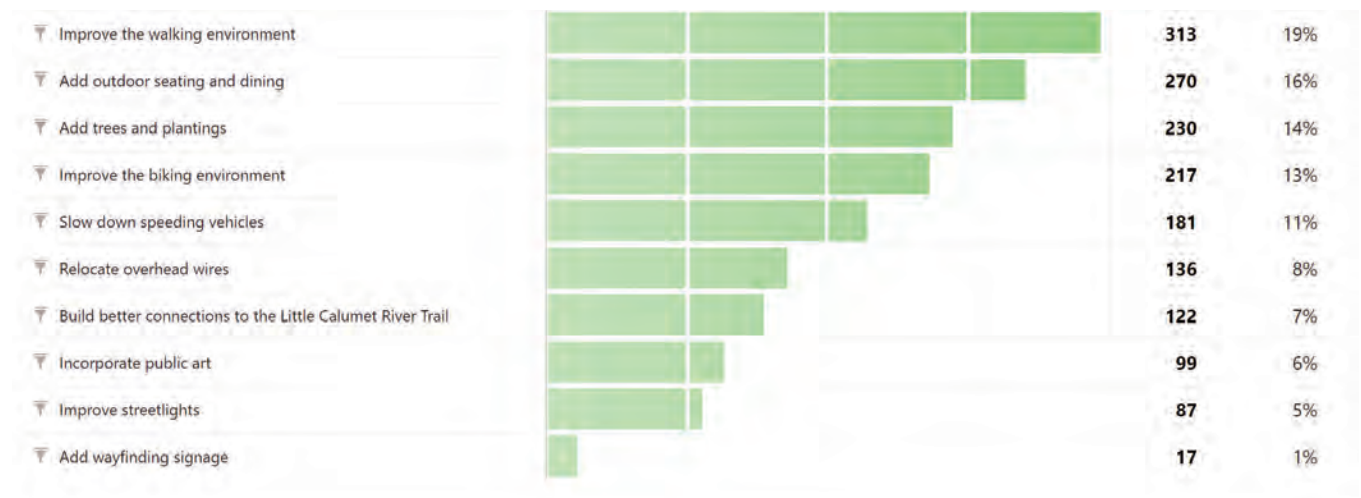
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How would you improve Calumet Avenue?

When asked to identify how participants would improve Calumet Avenue, the top four improvements include **'Improve the walking environment'** (19%), **'Add outdoor seating and dining'** (16%), **'Add trees and plantings'** (14%) and **'Improve the biking environment'** (13%). Other responses include **'Slow down speeding vehicles'** (11%), **'Relocate overhead wires'** (8%), **'Build better connections to the Little Calumet River Trail'** (7%), **'Incorporate public art'** (6%), **'Improve streetlights'** (5%), and **'Add wayfinding signage'** (1%).

90 individual comments were provided. Repeated comments and key themes include:

- Traffic calming, safety and functionality are of the utmost importance.
- Work with adjacent businesses to improve parking access, building facade improvements and landscaping.
- Improve the north end of Calumet Ave with an attractive gateway sign and landscaping into the community.
- Key quotes include:
 - *"The first things to do would be to improve walking/biking environment by relocating overhead wires and poles and slowing down vehicles. After that, people would feel more comfortable with outdoor seating/dining. Signage, art, trees and connections to the trail would all be great, but we must feel comfortable and safe, first."*
 - *"It's the first street that people see when they get off the expressway and there is nothing attractive about it at all (currently)."*





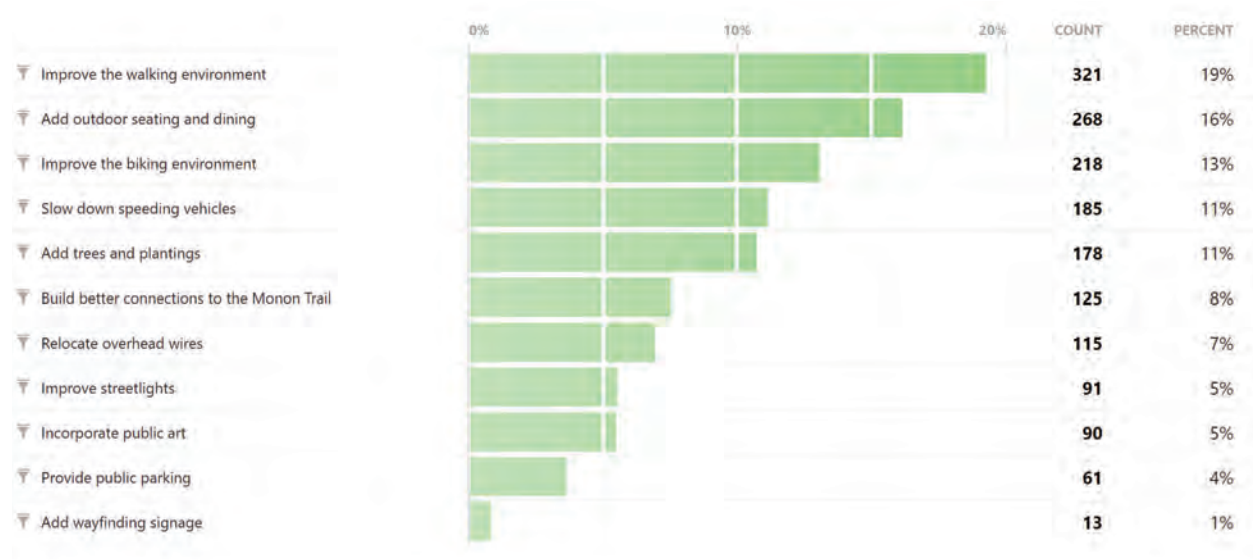
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How would you improve Ridge Road?

When asked to identify how participants would improve Ridge Road, the top three improvements include **'Improve the walking environment'** (19%), **'Add outdoor seating and dining'** (16%), and **'Improve the biking environment'** (13%). Other responses include **'Slow down speeding vehicles'** (11%), **'Add trees and plantings'** (11%), **'Build better connections to the Monon Trail'** (8%), **'Relocate overhead wires'** (7%), **'Improve streetlights'** (5%), **'Incorporate public art'** (5%), **'Provide public parking'** (4%), and **'Add wayfinding signage'** (1%).

53 individual comments were provided. Repeated comments and key themes include:

- Ridge Road has the potential to become a destination if traffic were calmed and sidewalks were better designed.
- Provide improved parking facilities on street and behind businesses as viable.
- Key quotes include:
 - *"Public street parking would be great if we could fit it – much like Lansing's downtown."*
 - *"Ridge should be seen as the best place for a walking, dining, and shopping area."*
 - *"Create a more cohesive look that signifies this is the main "business district". Make it a destination.... need adequate parking and easy access on-off Ridge."*
 - *"Start a street Munster fest once a year."*





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If you had a magic wand, what would you do to improve the Calumet Ave / Ridge Road Corridor?

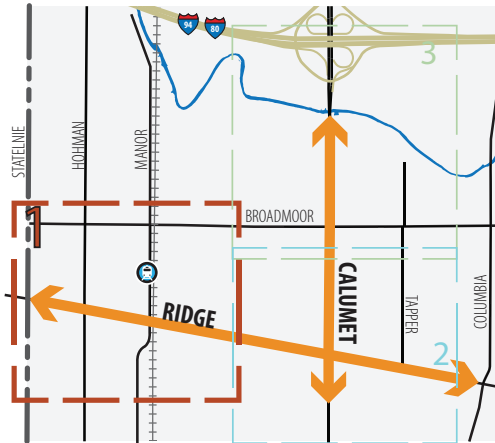
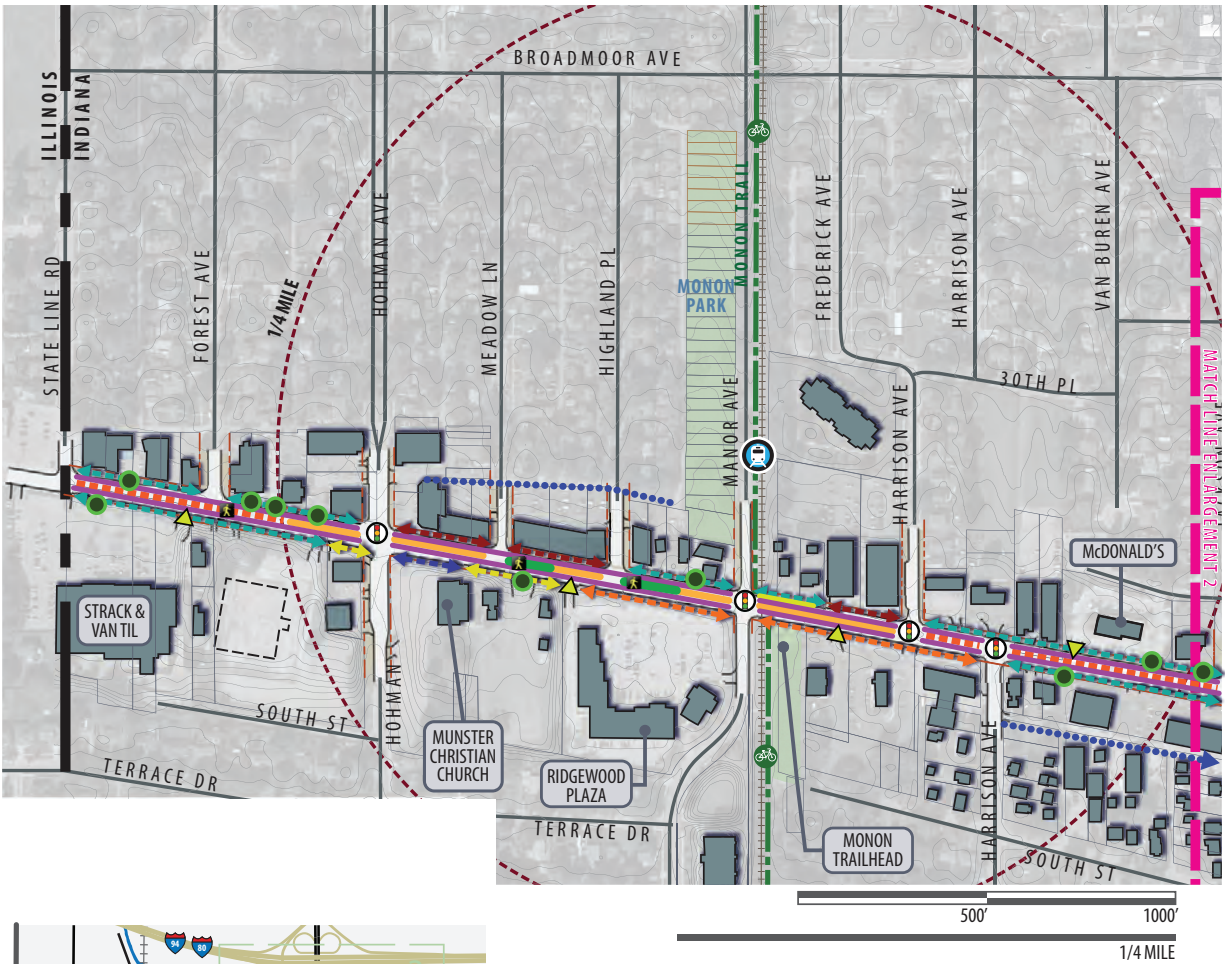
When asked how participants would envision improvements to Calumet Avenue and Ridge Road, 391 individual comments were provided. Comments are grouped into themes below:

- **Safety first.** Calumet Ave and Ridge Road are generally perceived to be unsafe today – future improvements should consider safety for all modes of transportation.
- **Calm traffic.** Given the corridor’s access to I-80 / 94, and the scale of the roadways, cars tend to speed. Traffic should be calmed to support safer conditions for people.
- **Improve biking and walking.** The Monon Trail, Little Calumet River Trail, local businesses, attractive neighborhoods, and planned train station are draws for biking and walking. Improve the streetscape to support these activities in a safe manner.
- **Create an attractive atmosphere.** Build upon local positive examples of placemaking to improve corridor ambience and attract new quality businesses. Noted local examples include the Monon Trailhead, 313 Taproom, Casa Del Mar and Marko’s Bar and Grill.
- **Declutter the streetscape.** The corridors have a ‘hodge-podge’ appearance today due in part to utility poles, a mixture of historically themed lights and broken concrete planters. Make deliberate streetscape improvements while also maintaining clear views.
- **Make it greener.** The corridors are perceived to have too much asphalt and concrete today. Incorporate appropriately placed native plantings and establish pollinator habitat that connects back to the environment of the Little Calumet River.
- **Work with property owners to improve their curb appeal.** Code enforcement and incentive programs can help to improve the corridor via façade enhancements, business signage, well-organized parking, lighting, and landscaping.
- **Maintenance is key.** A commitment should be made by property owners and the Town of Munster to maintain the streetscape.



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- Key quotes follow below:
 - *“Redesign to safely accommodate people (walkers, bikers) instead of only cars.”*
 - *“Modernize the area and bring in good quality food choices to support the housing industry and shopping industry that is all in this area. Make it feel like a living, shopping, dining experience all within a convenient location. Improve ease of walking with sidewalks.”*
 - *“I would like to see the downtown used similarly to that of other communities for weekly car shows, art fairs, foodie events, community gatherings.”*
 - *“I love the idea of adding flowers and greenery but safety is absolutely #1.”*
 - *“The fact that the sidewalk is right next to the street makes it feel dangerous especially during rush hour.”*
 - *“Revise to less of a “travel through” and more of a “travel to” situation. Add greenery, landscaping and slow down the traffic so that people feel safe walking or biking.”*



KEY MAP

LEGEND

- SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION
- PLANNED TRANSIT STATION LOCATION
- PLANNED TRANSIT RAIL LINE
- POTENTIAL RELOCATION FOR OVERHEAD POWERLINES (FURTHER STUDY REQUIRED)
- PARCEL LINE
- RIGHT OF WAY
- CONTOUR LINE
- REGIONAL TRAIL

ROADWAY

- (2) TRAVEL LANES
- 2-WAY LEFT TURN LANE
- DEDICATED LEFT TURN LANE
- DEDICATED RIGHT TURN LANE
- LANDSCAPE MEDIAN
- MID-BLOCK CROSSING
- RIGHT IN/RIGHT OUT
- MODIFIED CURB-CUT
- CLOSED CURB-CUT
- NEW CURB-CUT

RIGHT OF WAY TO CURB

- DOWNTOWN STREETScape
(WIDE SIDEWALKS 11'-16' WIDTH, TREES IN GRATES/PLANTERS, DECORATIVE PAVING)
- 6' SIDEWALKS W/ LANDSCAPE PARKWAY
- 10' to 12' SIDEWALK
- 7'-6" to 8'-6" SIDEWALK
- 5'-6" to 6' SIDEWALK



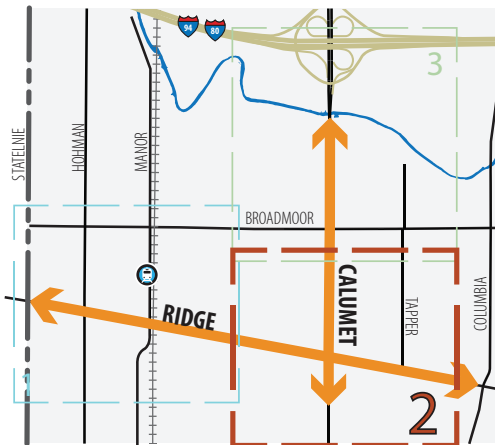
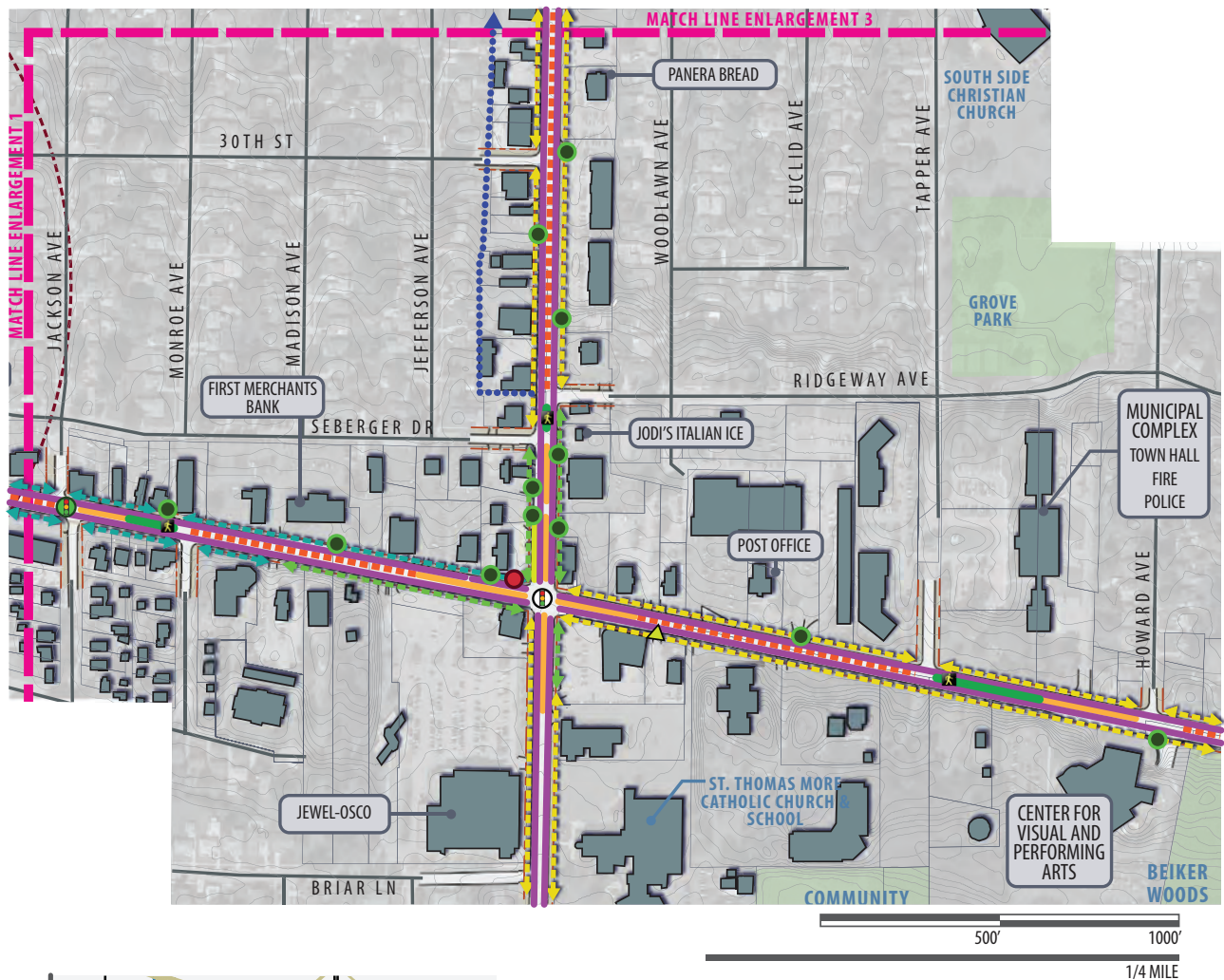
Town of Munster, Indiana

Munster Calumet-Ridge Streetscape

Draft: Framework Plan (MIN) - Sheet 1 of 3 (Ridge Road)



November 7, 2020



KEY MAP

LEGEND

- SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION
- PARCEL LINE
- RIGHT OF WAY
- CONTOUR LINE
- POTENTIAL RELOCATION FOR OVERHEAD POWERLINES (FURTHER STUDY REQUIRED)
- ROADWAY**
 - (2) TRAVEL LANES
 - (1) TRAVEL LANE
 - 2-WAY LEFT TURN LANE
 - DEDICATED LEFT TURN LANE
 - DEDICATED RIGHT TURN LANE
 - LANDSCAPE MEDIAN
 - MID-BLOCK CROSSING
 - RIGHT IN/RIGHT OUT
 - MODIFIED CURB-CUT
 - CLOSED CURB-CUT
- RIGHT OF WAY TO CURB**
 - 6' SIDEWALKS W/ LANDSCAPE PARKWAY
 - 5' SIDEWALKS W/ LANDSCAPE PARKWAY
 - 7'-6" TO 9' SIDEWALKS



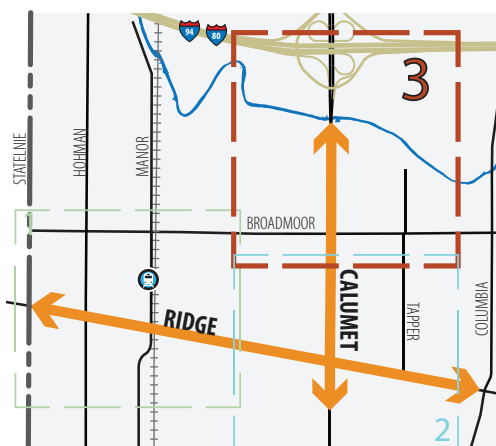
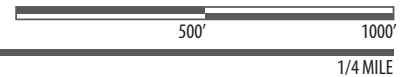
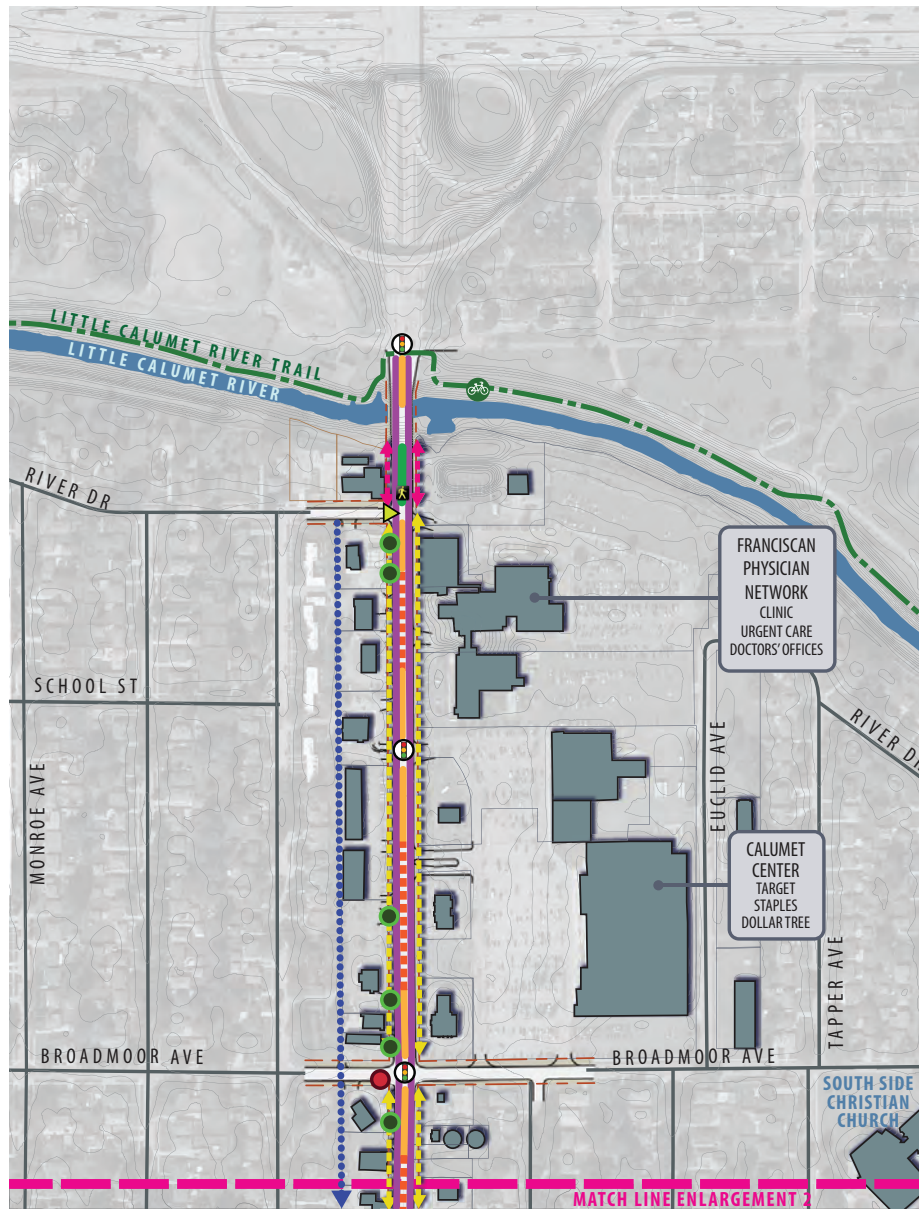
Town of Munster, Indiana

Munster Calumet-Ridge Streetscape

Draft: Framework Plan (MIN) - Sheet 2 of 3 (Ridge Road/Calumet Avenue)



November 7, 2020



KEY MAP

LEGEND

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| | SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION | | POTENTIAL RELOCATION FOR OVERHEAD POWERLINES (FURTHER STUDY REQUIRED) |
| | PARCEL LINE | | |
| | RIGHT OF WAY | | |
| | CONTOUR LINE | | |
| | REGIONAL TRAIL | | |
| ROADWAY | | | |
| | (2) TRAVEL LANES | RIGHT OF WAY TO CURB | |
| | DEDICATED LEFT TURN LANE | | 5' SIDEWALKS W/ LANDSCAPE PARKWAY |
| | 2-WAY LEFT TURN LANE | | 5' SIDEWALK |
| | LANDSCAPE MEDIAN | | |
| | MID-BLOCK CROSSING | | |
| | RIGHT IN/RIGHT OUT | | |
| | MODIFIED CURB-CUT | | |
| | CLOSED CURB-CUT | | |



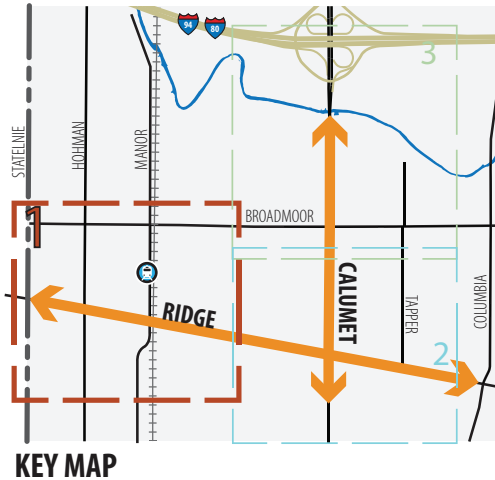
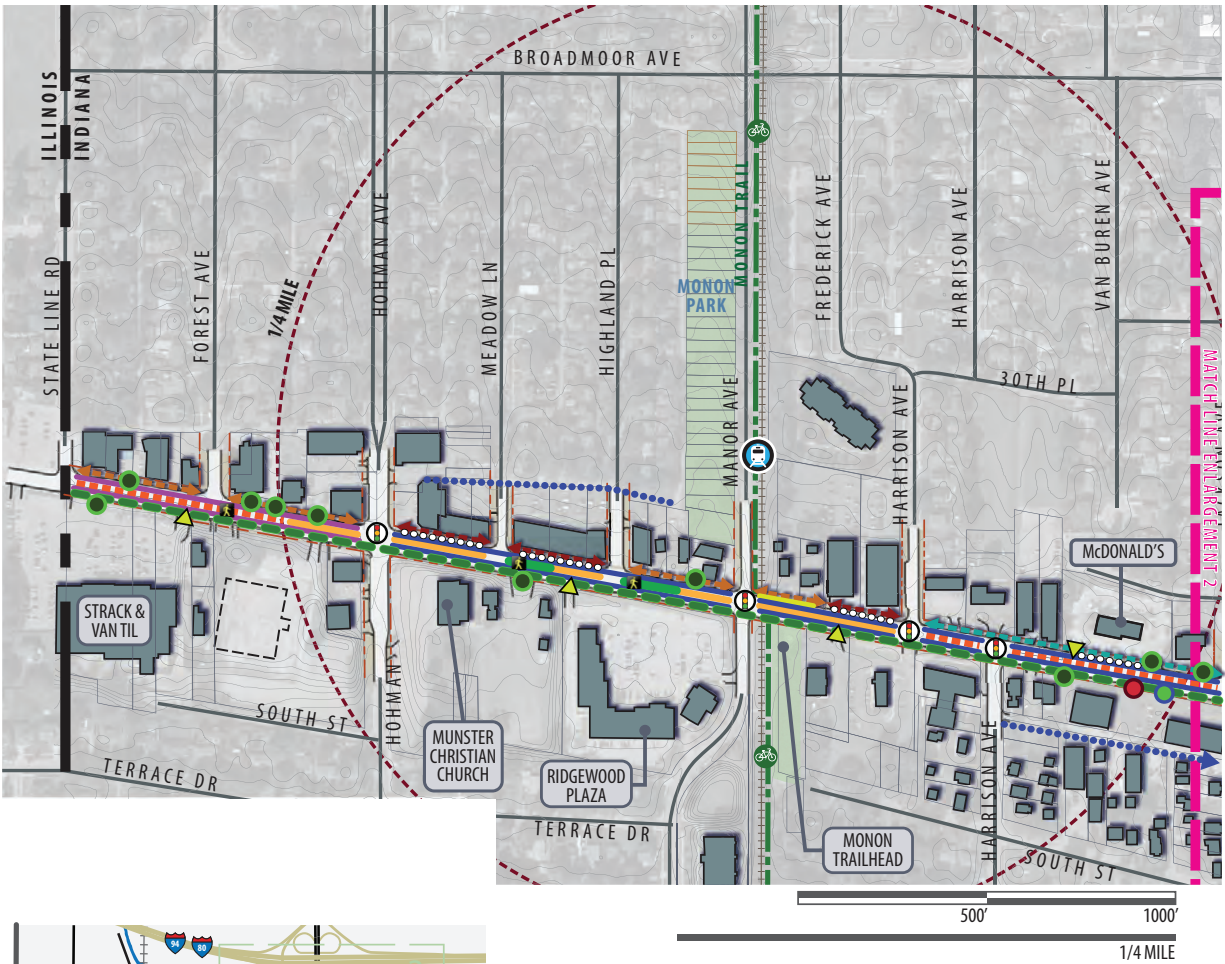
Town of Munster, Indiana

Munster Calumet-Ridge Streetscape

Draft: Framework Plan (MIN) - Sheet 3 of 3 (Calumet Avenue)



November 7, 2020



KEY MAP

LEGEND

- | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|----------------|
| | SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION | | PARCEL LINE |
| | PLANNED TRANSIT STATION LOCATION | | RIGHT OF WAY |
| | PLANNED TRANSIT RAIL LINE | | CONTOUR LINE |
| | POTENTIAL RELOCATION FOR OVERHEAD POWERLINES (FURTHER STUDY REQUIRED) | | REGIONAL TRAIL |
| ROADWAY | | | |
| | (2) TRAVEL LANES | RIGHT OF WAY TO CURB | |
| | (1) TRAVEL LANE | | |
| | 2-WAY LEFT TURN LANE | DOWNTOWN STREETScape
(WIDE SIDEWALKS 12'-18" WIDTH, TREES IN GRATES/PLANTERS, RAIN GARDENS, DECORATIVE PAVING) | |
| | DEDICATED LEFT TURN LANE | | |
| | DEDICATED RIGHT TURN LANE | 8' SIDEWALKS W/ LANDSCAPE PARKWAY | |
| | LANDSCAPE MEDIAN | | |
| | ON-STREET PARKING | 6' SIDEWALKS W/ LANDSCAPE PARKWAY | |
| | MID-BLOCK CROSSING | | |
| | RIGHT IN/RIGHT OUT | 10' MULTI-USE PATH (PED/BICYCLE) | |
| | MODIFIED CURB-CUT | | |
| | CLOSED CURB-CUT | | |
| | NEW CURB-CUT | | |



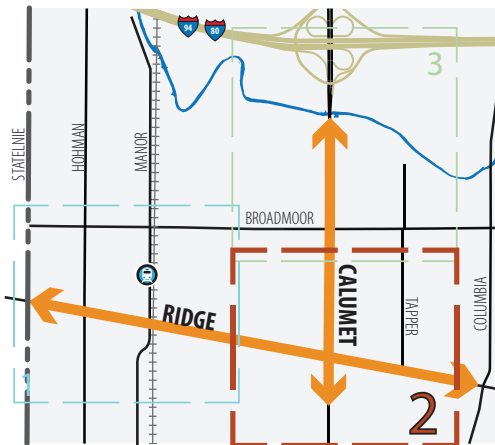
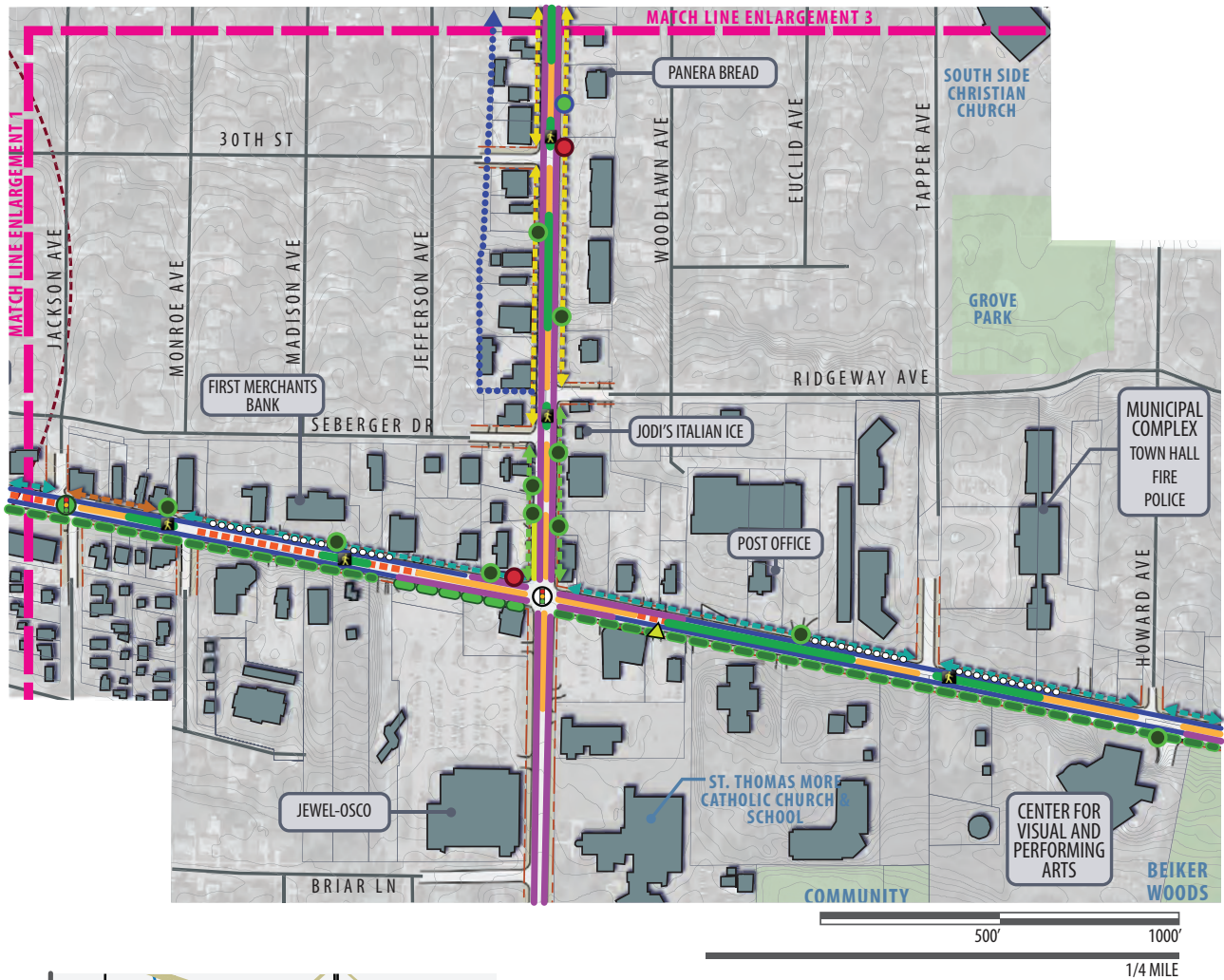
Town of Munster, Indiana

Munster Calumet-Ridge Streetscape

Draft: Framework Plan (MAX) - Sheet 1 of 3 (Ridge Road)

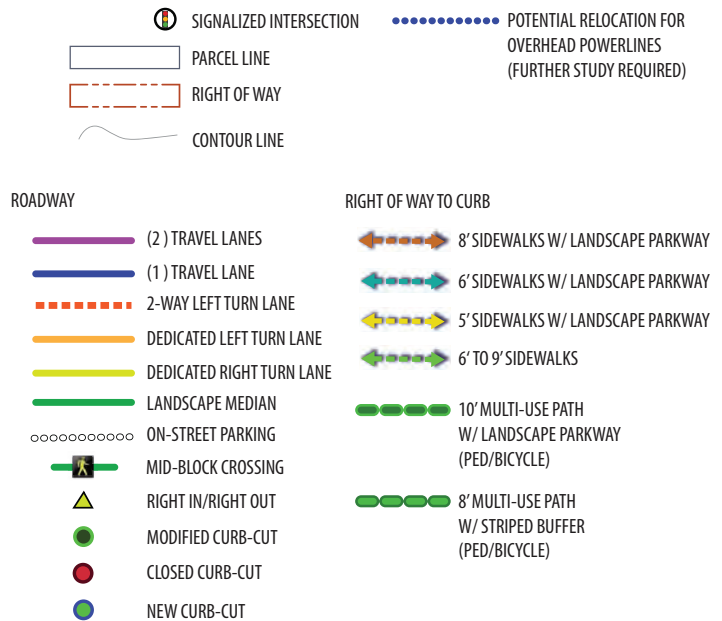


November 7, 2020



KEY MAP

LEGEND



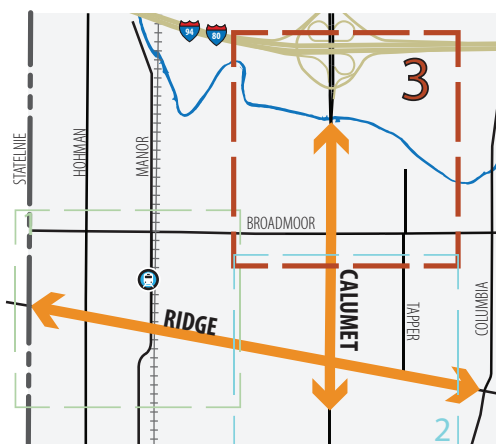
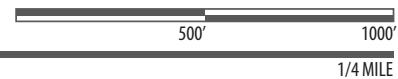
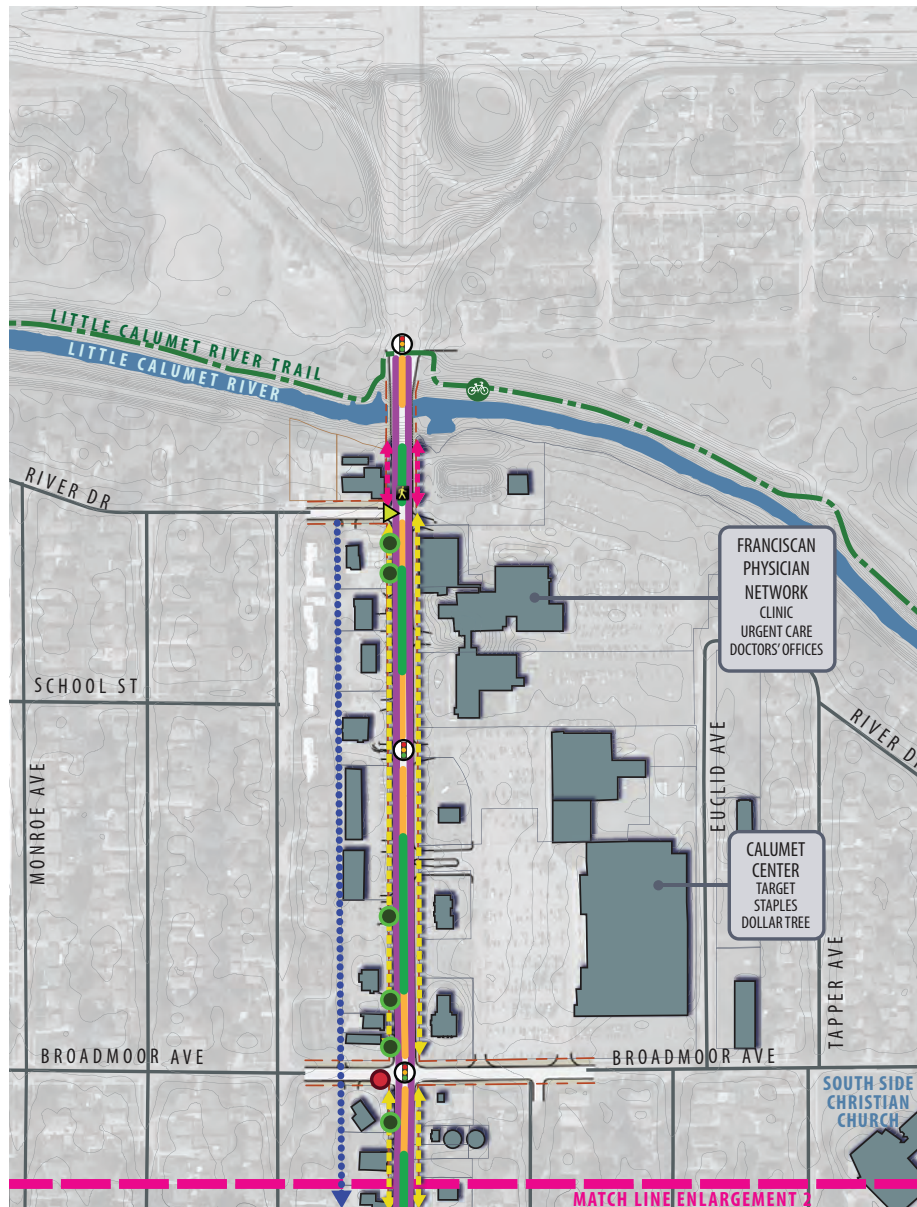
Town of Munster, Indiana

Munster Calumet-Ridge Streetscape

Draft: Framework Plan (MAX) - Sheet 2 of 3 (Ridge Road/Calumet Avenue)



November 7, 2020



KEY MAP

LEGEND

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| | SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION | | POTENTIAL RELOCATION FOR OVERHEAD POWERLINES (FURTHER STUDY REQUIRED) |
| | PARCEL LINE | | |
| | RIGHT OF WAY | | |
| | CONTOUR LINE | | |
| | REGIONAL TRAIL | | |
| ROADWAY | | | |
| | (2) TRAVEL LANES | RIGHT OF WAY TO CURB | |
| | DEDICATED LEFT TURN LANE | | 5' SIDEWALKS W/ LANDSCAPE PARKWAY |
| | LANDSCAPE MEDIAN | | 5' SIDEWALK |
| | ON-STREET PARKING | | |
| | MID-BLOCK CROSSING | | |
| | RIGHT IN/RIGHT OUT | | |
| | MODIFIED CURB-CUT | | |
| | CLOSED CURB-CUT | | |
| | NEW CURB-CUT | | |



Town of Munster, Indiana

Munster Calumet-Ridge Streetscape

Draft: Framework Plan (MAX) - Sheet 3 of 3 (Calumet Avenue)



November 7, 2020



WOOD + ALUMINUM BENCH BACKLESS
LANDSCAPE FORMS GENERATION 50 BENCH



WOOD + ALUMINUM BENCH WITH BACK
LANDSCAPE FORMS AUSTIN BENCH



ALUMINUM BIKE RACK
LANDSCAPE FORMS, BOLA BIKE RACK



WOOD + ALUMINUM
LITTER + RECYCLING RECEPTACLE
LANDSCAPE FORMS GENERATION 50



IRON TREE GRATE
IRON AGE DESIGNS, KELP



IRON TRENCH GRATE
IRON AGE DESIGNS, MINNIONE



PERMEABLE PAVERS AT ON-STREET PARKING
WITH RAIN GARDENS



METAL STREET BANNER



FABRIC STREET BANNER

MUNSTER INDIANA
CALUMET-RIDGE STREETScape PLAN
STREETSCAPE FURNISHINGS IMAGERY: REFINED



SEPTEMBER, 2020



TIMBER + STEEL BENCH BACKLESS BENCH
STREETLIFE, DRIFTER BENCH



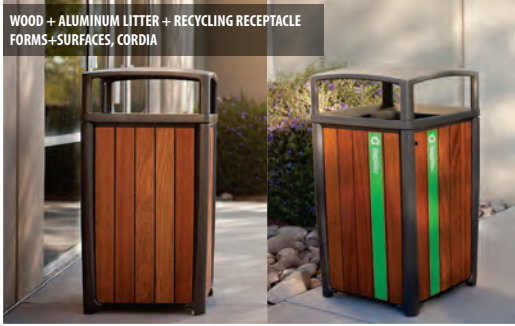
WOOD + STEEL BENCH WITH BACK
STREETLIFE, ROUGH AND READY 6 BENCH



WOOD + CORTEN BIKE RACK
STREETLIFE, SOLID BIKE PARKING



CORTEN TREE GRATE
STREETLIFE, TREE GRILLES
CORTEN SQUARE



WOOD + ALUMINUM LITTER + RECYCLING RECEPTACLE
FORMS+SURFACES, CORDIA



IRON TRENCH GRATE
IRON AGE DESIGNS, GROUND SWELL



METAL STREET BANNER



FABRIC STREET BANNER

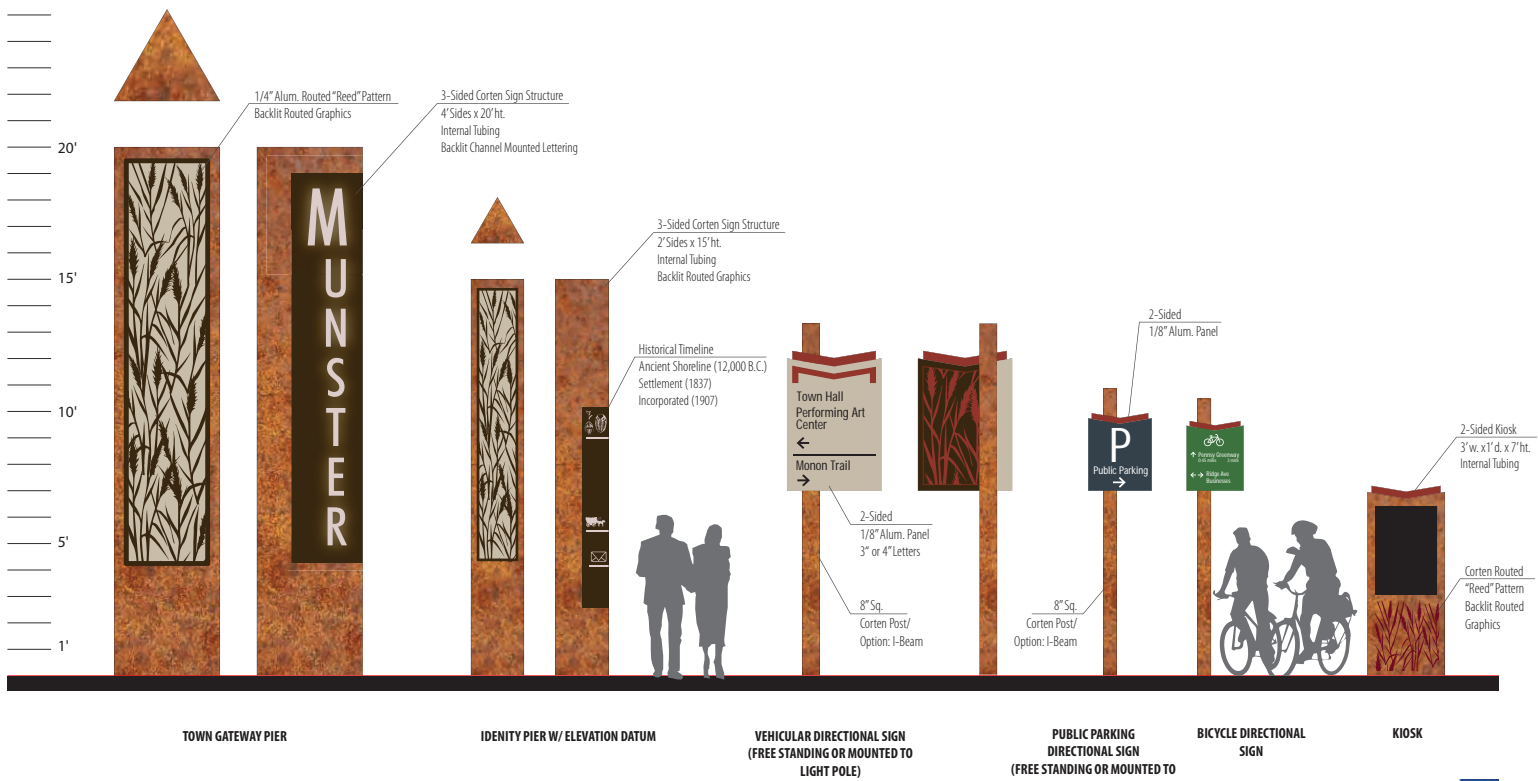


PERMEABLE PAVING AT SIDEWALKS
WITH RAIN GARDENS

MUNSTER INDIANA
CALUMET-RIDGE STREETScape PLAN
STREETSCAPE FURNISHINGS IMAGERY: RUSTIC



SEPTEMBER, 2020



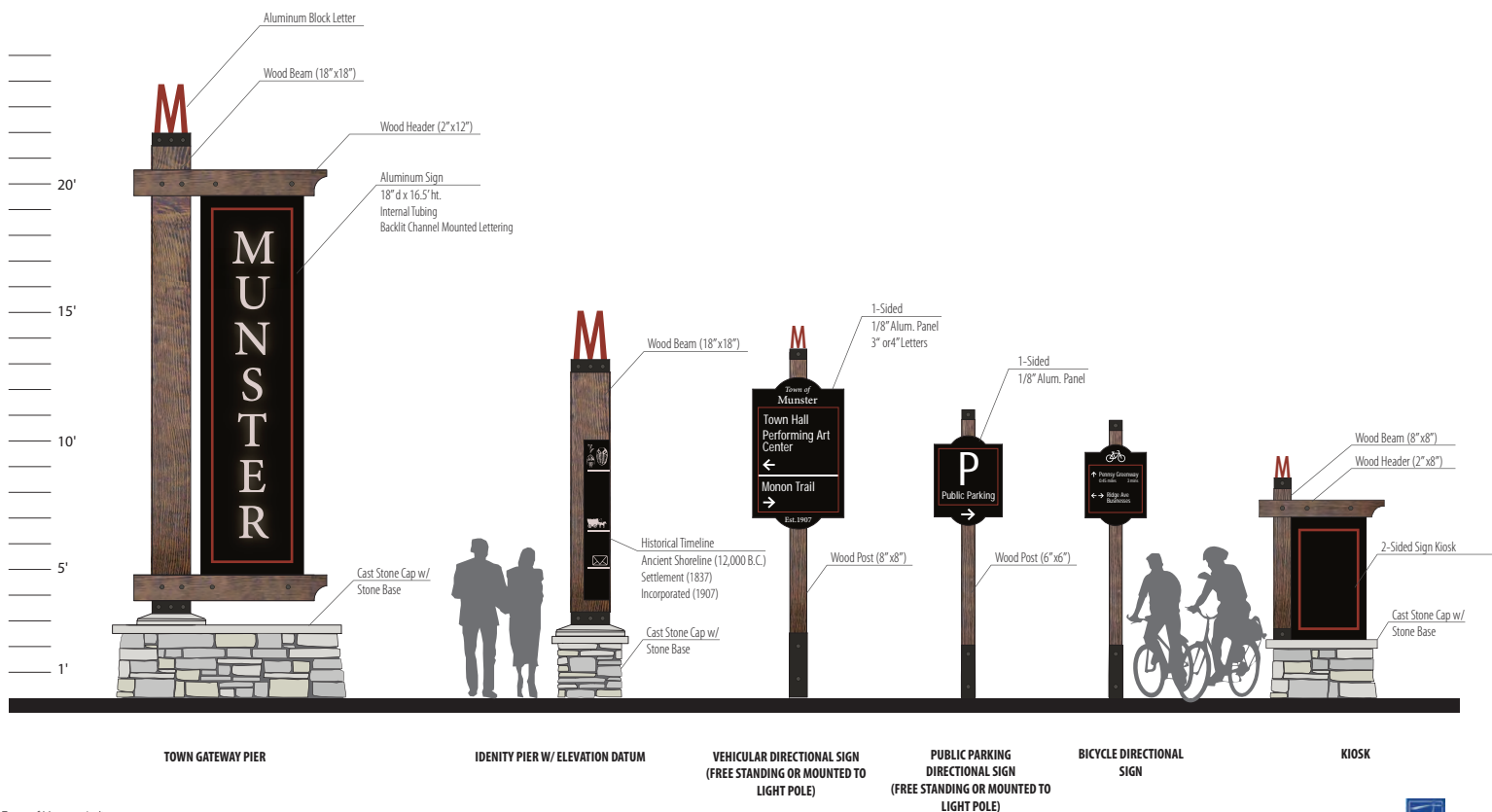
Town of Munster, Indiana

Munster Ridge Calumet Streetscape Plan

Conceptual Sign Family - Option A



September 22, 2020



Town of Munster, Indiana

Munster Ridge Calumet Streetscape Plan

Conceptual Sign Family - Option B



September 22, 2020



PAINTED MURALS ON WALLS



PAINTED MURALS ON WALLS



PAINTED CROSSWALK



PAINTED PLAZA



INTERACTIVE ART



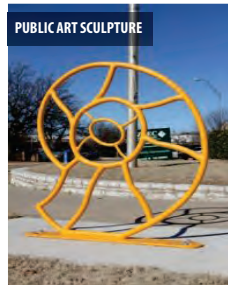
INTERACTIVE ART



ROCK CARVINGS/HITORICAL INTERPRETATION



PUBLIC ART SCULPTURE



MUNSTER INDIANA
CALUMET-RIDGE STREETScape PLAN
 PUBLIC ART



SEPTEMBER, 2020



American Hornbeam
Carpinus caroliniana

Mature Height: 25'
Mature Width: 25'

Pollinators: *Butterflies/Moths*



Ohio Buckeye
Aesculus glabra

Mature Height: 30'
Mature Width: 30'

Pollinators:
Bees & Hummingbirds



Black Tupelo
Nyssa sylvatica

Mature Height: 40'
Mature Width: 50'

Pollinators: *Bees*



Red Maple
Acer rubrum

Mature Height: 45'
Mature Width: 40'

Pollinators: *Bees & Butterflies/Moths*



Common Hackberry
Celtis occidentalis

Mature Height: 60'
Mature Width: 50'

Pollinators: *Butterflies/Moths*



Swamp White Oak
Quercus bicolor

Mature Height: 50'
Mature Width: 40'

Pollinators: *Butterflies/Moths*



Kentucky Coffeetree
Gymnocladus dioica

Mature Height: 50'
Mature Width: 50'

Pollinators: *Butterflies/Moths*



Yellowwood
Cladrastis kentukea

Mature Height: 40'
Mature Width: 40'

Pollinators: *Butterflies/Moths*

NOTE: Mature tree heights and widths are dependent on soil conditions and maintenance practice.

MUNSTER INDIANA CALUMET-RIDGE STREETScape PLAN

NATIVE PLANT SELECTIONS SHADE TREES

DRAFT SEPTEMBER 2020





Prairie Crabapple
Malus ioensis

Mature Height: 15'-20'
Mature Width: 20'

Flower Color: Deep pink-red/
Light Pink/White
Pollinators: Bees



Nannyberry
Viburnum lentago

Mature Height: 12'
Mature Width: 12'

Flower Color: White
Pollinators: Bees, Butterflies/
Moths, Flies, & Wasps



Serviceberry
Amelanchier arborea

Mature Height: 20'
Mature Width: 15'

Flower Color: White
Pollinators: Bees, Beetles, & Flies



Witch Hazel
Hamamelis virginiana

Mature Height: 15'
Mature Width: 15'

Flower Color: Yellow
Pollinators: Bees & Flies



MUNSTER INDIANA CALUMET-RIDGE STREETScape PLAN

NATIVE PLANT SELECTIONS ORNAMENTAL TREES (BELOW OVERHEAD LINES)

DRAFT SEPTEMBER 2020



**Sam
Schwartz**



Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle
Diervilla lonicera

Mature Height: 1'-3'
Mature Width: 3'-5'

Flower Color: Red/Orange/Yellow
Pollinators:
Butterflies & Hummingbirds



New Jersey Tea
Ceanothus americanus
Mature Height: 2'-3'
Mature Width: 2'-3'

Flower Color: White
Pollinators: Bees, Butterflies/Moths,
& Hummingbirds



Kalm's St. John's wort
Hypericum kalmianum

Mature Height: 2'-3'
Mature Width: 3'-4'

Flower Color: Yellow
Pollinators: Bees



Arctostaphylos uva-ursi
Bearberry
Mature Height: 1'
Mature Width: 3'-6'

Flower Color: White/Pink
Pollinators: Bees, Butterflies/Moths,
& Hummingbirds



MUNSTER INDIANA CALUMET-RIDGE STREETScape PLAN

NATIVE PLANT SELECTIONS SHRUBS

DRAFT SEPTEMBER 2020





Butterflyweed
Asclepias tuberosa

Mature Height: 1'
Mature Width: 2'

Flower Color: Orange
Pollinators: Bees & Butterflies/Moths



Lance-Leaf Coreopsis
Coreopsis lanceolata

Mature Height: 2'
Mature Width: 1'-2'

Flower Color: Yellow
Pollinators: Bees, Butterflies/Moths & Flies



Narrow-Leaf Mountain Mint
Pycnanthemum tenuifolium

Mature Height: 2'
Mature Width: 2'-3'

Flower Color: White
Pollinators: Bees, Butterflies/Moths, Flies, & Wasps



Nodding Wild Onion
Allium cernuum

Mature Height: 1'-2'
Mature Width: 1'

Flower Color: Pink
Pollinators: Bees, Butterflies/Moths, & Hummingbirds



Palm Sedge
Carex muskingumensis

Mature Height: 1'-3'
Mature Width: 1'-3'



Prairie Dropseed
Sporobolus heterolepis

Mature Height: 1'-2'
Mature Width: 2'-3'



Prairie Junegrass
Koeleria macrantha

Mature Height: 1'-2'
Mature Width: 1'-2'



Prairie Sedge
Carex bicknellii

Mature Height: 1'-3'
Mature Width: 1'-3'



Sideoats Grama
Bouteloua curtipendula

Mature Height: 1'-2.5'
Mature Width: 1'-2'

Pollinators: Butterflies/Moths



Smooth Blue Aster
Aster laevis

Mature Height: 2'-3'
Mature Width: 2'-4'

Flower Color: Blue
Pollinators: Butterflies/Moths



Black-eyed Susan
Rudbeckia hirta

Mature Height: 2'-3'
Mature Width: 2'

Flower Color: Yellow
Pollinators: Butterflies/Moths



Wild Columbine
Aquilegia canadensis

Mature Height: 2'
Mature Width: 1'-2'

Flower Color: Red/Yellow
Pollinators: Butterflies/Moths & Hummingbirds



Wild Geranium
Geranium maculatum

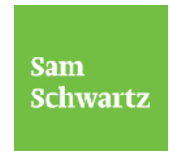
Mature Height: 1'-2'
Mature Width: 1'-2'

Flower Color: Lavender
Pollinators: Bees, Butterflies/Moths, & Flies

MUNSTER INDIANA CALUMET-RIDGE STREETScape PLAN

NATIVE PLANT SELECTIONS PERENNIALS, GRASSES, GROUNDCOVERS

DRAFT SEPTEMBER 2020





Lance-Leaf Coreopsis
Coreopsis lanceolata

Mature Height: 2'
Mature Width: 1'-2'

Flower Color: Yellow
Pollinators: Bees, Butterflies/Moths & Flies



Narrow-Leaf Mountain Mint
Pycnanthemum tenuifolium

Mature Height: 2'
Mature Width: 2'-3'

Flower Color: White
Pollinators: Bees, Butterflies/Moths, Flies, & Wasps



Palm Sedge
Carex muskingumensis

Mature Height: 1'-3'
Mature Width: 1'-3'



Prairie Dropseed
Sporobolus heterolepis

Mature Height: 1'-2'
Mature Width: 2'-3'



Prairie Sedge
Carex bicknellii

Mature Height: 1'-3'
Mature Width: 1'-3'



Smooth Blue Aster
Aster laevis

Mature Height: 2'-3'
Mature Width: 2'-4'

Flower Color: Blue
Pollinators: Butterflies/Moths



Wild Columbine
Aquilegia canadensis

Mature Height: 2'
Mature Width: 1'-2'

Flower Color: Red/Yellow
Pollinators: Butterflies/Moths & Hummingbirds

MUNSTER INDIANA CALUMET-RIDGE STREETScape PLAN

NATIVE PLANT SELECTIONS WET TOLERANT PLANTINGS

DRAFT SEPTEMBER 2020



**Sam
Schwartz**