

Sunrise Corridor Community Visioning

Draft Early Engagement Summary

Report date | March 2024



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Introduction

Over the years, there have been several transportation studies for the Sunrise Corridor. Community members and local agencies have called for a broader look at all the pieces that make up a healthy and equitable community. The Sunrise Corridor Community Vision process is engaging residents, businesses, and travelers to share what they believe is needed for this community to thrive.

To begin this process of shaping a vision for the community, pop-up events, equitable engagement workshops, online surveys, and key interested party interviews are being conducted .

- The stakeholder interviews are focused on members of the business community, local organizations, and local agencies.
- Pop-up events have been held at the North Clackamas Chamber of Commerce AM Business Connection, Clackamas Industrial Shuttle, and City of Happy Valley 172nd Ave Open House, and initial contact has been made with the manufactured home communities.
- Two equitable engagement workshops were held in February, facilitated by Community Engagement Liaisons (CELs), and focusing on engagement with underserved communities.
- An online survey asking for thoughts about community values and what is needed for a safe, healthy and thriving community was developed and publicized through social media, outreach to interested parties and a flyer.

This report compiles information gathered through all four channels and includes meeting attendance, key findings, and next steps. Key themes of what people hope will be included in the project area from the initial round of outreach include:

- Address congestion and safety issues
- Increase access to roadways and transit
- Improve multimodal options, including sidewalk and bike lanes
- Include anti-displacement strategies, with a focus on affordable housing
- Improve transportation infrastructure to be safer and reduce congestion for all modes
- Create access to parks and other green spaces
- Improve land use regulations for businesses and services to succeed
- Build community buy-in

Key Interested Party Interviews

The key interested party interviews began in September 2023 and will continue through spring 2024. The purpose of these interviews is to better understand the historical background of the community, learn about what is working well today and what should be addressed in the future. Interviews held to-date include:

1. Terry Emmert, Emmert International – October 20, 2023 & December 8, 2023
2. Laura Edmonds, Clackamas County Economic Development – September 5, 2023
3. Johnnie Heintz, Historical Society – September 7, 2023
4. Wilda Parks, formerly Milwaukie City Council; formerly North Clackamas Chamber of Commerce – September 27, 2023
5. David Marks, Marks Metal – October 8, 2023
6. Tracy Moreland, Resident and Grand Ronde Tribal Member– June 22, 2023
7. Jay Jones, North Clackamas Chamber of Commerce – November 17, 2023
8. Chris Hawes, Clackamas Fire District – November 29, 2023
9. Diane Helm, Terra Casa, ; formerly Damascus City Council; Water Environment Services (WES) Advisory Committee Member – November 29, 2023
10. Patrick Sheehan, Real Estate Agent, formerly Oregon Legislature – November 28, 2023
11. Dan Occhipinti, Pacific Seafoods – December 4, 2023
12. Daryl Woods, Safeway – December 13, 2023
13. Brad Paulsen, Platt Electric Supply, Inc. – February 21, 2024

Interview Questions

A set of questions was developed to be used in all interviews. Not every question was used or answered as the flow of the conversation determined what was and what was not asked.

- What brought you to this area?
- What do you know about the corridor (past planning too)?
- What do you hear from others?
- What works in the corridor well today?
- What could work better in the corridor in the future?
- What do you want this area to look like in the future?
- What issues should be addressed by this plan?
- How would you like to participate in the future?
- What is a quote that we could use on the website?
- What would success look like to you?

Key Findings

Below are key findings from the interviews to-date. This will be updated as more interviews are conducted.

- Be conscientious of displacement as strategies are developed through this process – there are several manufactured home parks in the area and more affordable housing is needed.
- The Sunrise Corridor is impacting businesses, circulation issues are huge, and the manufacturing, distribution and warehousing industries are growing.
- The agricultural community needs to be included in the conversation as agricultural land use has grown.

- Transportation facilities are not keeping pace with community growth and getting around town is inefficient.
- Think of the broader area, not just the corridor, for land use and economic opportunities.
- Traffic congestion is the largest problem, specifically on OR 212 with Safeway, Amazon and truck traffic to Mt. Hood.
- Safety issues – no shoulders on roads, ditches on both sides, and trucks exiting off I-205 into the industrial area.
- Intersection congestion and safety issues into Damascus as traffic comes down from Gresham and Sandy.
- There are no north-south connections in Damascus, however, it is important that solutions do not cut neighborhoods in half (e.g., Damascus and Boring).
- Success looks like having the community understand the issues and solutions, and there is trust around the project implementation.
- Priorities and purpose for a funding package should focus on more than creating jobs, as the project includes more than that.

Pop-up Events

The project team is conducting pop-up events at local gathering places like grocery stores, libraries, and farmer markets throughout the project.

- **North Clackamas Chamber AM Business Connection** – February 2, 2024
 - Approximately 50 attendees; 10 people engaged with the project team to review the corridor map and share their experience of living and working in the area. Comments included:
 - Better access is needed to Happy Valley.
 - Locate community services and transitional housing opportunities near transit.
 - Traffic signals need to be improved and safety should be a consideration for the project.
 - The tree canopy around the industrial/warehouse buildings is appreciated – air quality continues to be an issue, specifically around Hwy 212/122nd Ave.
 - Concerns around tolling.
- **Clackamas Industrial Shuttle** – January 25, 2024, and February 14, 2024
 - The project team rode the shuttle during the morning on January 25 and late afternoon on February 14, speaking with 10 people and leaving flyers on the shuttle. Comments included:
 - Improvements to transit with more frequency of the shuttle bus and coordination with TriMet routes.
 - Add sidewalks and bike routes to improve multimodal options, helping to remove cars from the road.
- **Clackamas County / Happy Valley 172nd Open House** – February 22, 2024
 - Project team hosted an information table at the 172nd Ave project open house and spoke with 10 people and shared flyers. Comments included:
 - Congested intersections with safety issues
 - Need additional parks and safe access for animal crossings
 - New roads should feel accessible and easy to use.

Equitable Engagement Workshops

Equitable engagement workshops held in February were facilitated by CELs, to improve engagement and highlight concerns and topics of interest heard by those who could be most marginalized in the project. The first workshop was held on **February 21, 2024** with 14 participants; the second was on **February 26, 2024** with 18 participants. Key themes from the discussions included:

- Additional parks and open spaces are needed, especially connecting to the Clackamas River.
- Bring in commercial businesses and services, focus less on industrial - make this corridor more of a destination.
- Acknowledgement of the inherent conflict of having industrial uses next to residential developments.
- Add multimodal options for travel, including safer sidewalks and bike lanes.
- Account for housing needs as this corridor is further developed; concerns about increase in unhoused individuals.
- Need for mixed commercial and residential developments.
- There is too much traffic congestion.

Online Survey

An online survey asked for thoughts about community values and what is needed for a safe, healthy, and thriving community. The survey was shared through social media and emails to interested parties, and linked on the project website. The survey will be open through March 15, 2024. As of March 5, 2024, 45 people have participated in the survey. Key themes to date include:

- There is too much traffic congestion.
- There are safety problems for residential areas because of nearby industrial or commercial areas without adequate security or social presence.
- People need more land capacity and efficient infrastructure.
- People need frequent and reliable public transit, including local buses and bus rapid transit (BRT).
- Need multimodal options, including safer sidewalks and additional bike lanes.
- There is a desire to see more coordination and collaboration among agencies and community.
- People want a safe, welcoming place, noting development and property maintenance.

Next Steps

Key interested party interviews will continue through the spring and the comment summary will be updated as more is learned. Upcoming pop-up events in spring 2024 include a pop-up event at Shadowbrook Mobile Home Park, and tabling at Pacific Seafood. There will be an online open house in April and in-person open house in the study area on April 10, 2024. The project team will continue to report on engagement phases and incorporate findings into the planning process.