

Franklin Boulevard open house #2 summary

TO: Franklin Boulevard Stakeholder Advisory Committee

COPIES: Tom Boyatt, City of Springfield

FROM: Kristin Hull

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Overview

The City of Springfield hosted an open house on Tuesday, February 5, 2008 at Roaring Rapids Pizza. The open house was the community's opportunity to review the Stakeholder Advisory Committee's recommended design concept for the Franklin Boulevard and the McVay Highway. Over 100 community members attended the open house and 34 people completed comment forms.

Participants at the open house were invited to review the alternatives development and evaluation process, and the preferred concept including layout, cross-sections and intersection form. Participants provided input by talking with staff and by completing a written comment form.

The open house was thoroughly advertised in the Glenwood area. Over 800 postcards were mailed to Glenwood residents and interested people. In addition, an article about the study that mentioned the open house was published in the *Register Guard* on February 4, 2008. Finally, an article about the study and an illustration of the proposed design concept were included in an issue *Glenwood Gazette* that was distributed in late January.

Comments

Many participants noted that they liked the boulevard concept. Most people who liked the concept said that it would improve the look of Franklin Boulevard and development potential in Glenwood. Some noted that the concept would also improve traffic flow. Some participants noted that they liked the dedicated EmX route.

Some participants noted that the concept requires too much property acquisition and eliminates too many existing businesses in the corridor. Some said that the current five lane cross-section was wide enough and that only sidewalks should be added to the corridor. Some noted that the cost to construct this concept would be too expensive. Finally, some business owners raised concerns that impacts such as removing parking would make continued operations of existing businesses difficult.

Several participants noted that the idea of directing cyclists to use the access lanes was inadequate and that a separated bike lane on the outside of the through-travel lane should be added throughout the corridor.

One participant requested that we look closely at the impacts to the newly constructed Bring Recycling facility and try to shift the alignment to eliminate impacts to that building. Another participant asked us to look closely at how access would be provided in areas where parcels are “land locked” by changes to the street system.

Some participants liked the concept of the roundabout at Franklin and McVay. Others expressed concern about how easy it would be to drive through or just noted that they were opposed to roundabouts.

Full text of comments received

What do you like about the current design concept? Why?

- Nothing. This is not Europe. Why must I sacrifice my business parking for shrubs and sidewalks?
- OK as is.
- It throws senior citizens out and it puts what they have worked for and have in someone else's pocket. It destroys thriving businesses and gives it to someone else.
- Better looks, better traffic flow plan for the future of Glenwood.
- I am disappointed with the attitude. People live here and work here. Your big plans are what your vision is at the expense of those who live here and work here. You're going to clean up gritty Glenwood and go home to your house. Take a look at downtown Springfield and other areas. What makes your opinion more valid than mine? Growth and change are inevitable, but conscience should play a part.
- We would love to have some new development along the river. Go for it!
- You want to take too much property. You will run everyone out of business on the south side and take our long-term investment. Sidewalk and planter next to walk only! Bike lane? That's it!
- Keep the EMX dedicated route. Like the boulevard design a lot.
- It's fine to move traffic through quickly. My main concern is downward-directed lighting. Lighting technology is very advanced now. Useless diffusion can be almost eliminated and it saves money, less confusing to wildlife overhead, and good for night sky viewers.
- Don't like it. New sewers in past 3 years, no need to re-do. Too many lanes! Street is fine as is, need only sidewalks.
- No roundabout. Traffic is way too heavy during rush hours. You're looking for many fender benders, blowing horns, angry drivers and horrible back ups after inevitable crashes.
- Nothing yet. We have 5 lanes currently. We do not need more. This proposal is obviously extremely expensive and unbalanced. It will destroy the Glenwood community and destroy many jobs for families in the community. How much has been spent thus far? How much will the proposal cost? Where will the money come from?
- I think it is too dangerous to place the bike lane into the slow traffic lane due the parked cars backing out and other cars driving and looking for parking spots, not watching bikers as closely.
- Bring recycling has just finished its buildings. The plan shows McVey cutting off a corner of the buildings. Please move it over a few feet.
- Why a roundabout? It's absolutely not needed, unwanted and a total waste of money. The people of Glenwood and SPED should have a moratorium on roundabouts. Put it to vote and let the people decide.
- Improved looks. Improved property values. Better traffic flow.
- Springfield government is spending money like a bunch of drunken sailors. Don't spend us into lower bond rating and a debt load that the tax payers can't deal with. Fix our city streets, potholes, etc... Stop wasting money on dreams.

- I like it mostly but I am uncomfortable with the roundabout.
- I don't like all the traffic we already have.
- I enjoy the fact that people are caring about the Glenwood area. Heck, it would be nice to see the Springfield downtown area cleaned up first. I sort of fear too much hustle and bustle. Plus, we are still rural and I want it to stay rural.
- I think it is a bit ambitious for Glenwood. I'm concerned for the residents and business owners of Glenwood. I would like to see a development plan that works with and for the long-term benefit of the people of Glenwood and reflect the Glenwood people positively.
- I think that this is a positive, promising solution that will provide a huge incentive for redevelopment. I'm sad that the current concept does not call for improvements to Franklin for the RR to Nugget. My properties are "land-locked" on E 20th Ave, accessed only by a 20' easement. This leaves the street as a cul-de-sac of crime and drug use, with little hope of improving property values.
- With the current businesses and trailer parks, the street is an armpit. Any development would be an improvement, especially regarding valuable river front that would make interesting areas for commerce and entertainment. I like the traffic circle and multi way transits with green tree canopies.
- No roundabouts in Springfield – please.
- Glenwood needs improvement and we are all for growth and progress, but this would force most businesses out of their "current" state of business. I'm sure it would be a slow process. Our business could not stand any loss of "frontline" but it may not even affect us (according to the plans).
- Alternative transportation needed for dedicated bus lanes and more attention needed to bikes and pedestrians. This is a bold vision, cleaning house in Glenwood. It is better use of natural and physical resources, connection to river and more greenery.
- It's always nice to see new areas trees and boulevards akin to those in European countries. We all appreciate goals.
- Establish bike lane needed all the way through. Wider sidewalks and separation of bikes from pedestrians.
- Pedestrian/Auto/cycle buffer streets needed. Roundabout okay if properly signed. My suggestion there is to label colors assigned to given destinations ahead of the intersection. Within the intersection, colored arrows show the roundabout exits based on those destinations, either as sign boards or roadway paint. No thinking required, no reading required in the intersection.
- We live south of Glenwood and would love to see the area upgraded. Of particular interest are the wide array of businesses, attractive roadway, sidewalks, and especially good, safe bike routes. We like the roundabout and would like to see another added at the Franklin and Glenwood intersection.

What parts of the current design concept do you think needs improvement? Why?

- Wider bike lanes and mixed use segments, enough room for biking families (kiddie trailers) to pass each other, as well as wide local-delivery trucks.
- I think the width of the road is excessive and wasteful. You have callous lack of concern for those you plan to displace. The people in the trailer courts with low incomes have

few choices for new dwelling places. Those of us whose businesses you don't find within your vision are just out of luck. Did it occur to you that these businesses contribute to our incomes? You seek the weak to look for little resistance. You need to offer alternatives to those you dispossess. You find no problem with removing elderly residents. You need to offer solutions. If you want to avoid lawsuits.

- Inconsistent bike paths/lanes
- I would need more information.
- I think you're homework and looked at the alternatives. I like where you've landed.
- Give me time and I'll tell you.
- I don't.
- The roundabout makes me feel uncomfortable. I am unused to the rules of the road concerning roundabouts. I worry about causing an accident.
- No roundabout.
- Quicker development. Talks have been going on seems like forever.
- We don't need more than five lanes as is current. Business owners/employees will be devastated. Nothing but tax increases through bond indebtedness will be burdensome on the taxpayers.
- Downsize street to existing.
- No street parking. They can park on our lot if you don't take it.
- Too early to tell.
- Excessively expensive to only take right-of-way from the south side of the street.
- Leaves narrow lots on the south side which will not be good for anything.

Please share any other thoughts you have about the design concept or study.

- I also do not want to plug the idea of a local bridge at Aspen and Glenwood Blvd/Franklin Blvd. Increased markets of north bank into Glenwood and even better, a north bank connection up to I-5!
- Why is the City Council's decision the end? I'll still be living here! How will these concepts play into my future? What's next, regardless of the City Council's decision? Is this a business scenario? I saw mostly Franklin front land owners who are worried now so many residents who will be living with the outcome! Who will be Springfield's residents?
- The roundabout will need good advance signage.
- Why not add a lane on the left side of the SW end of the bridge to go to LCC/McVay Highway. Beginning at the end of the architectural concrete and green steel structure. It would serve millions.
- The concepts are not realistic, the new proposed concepts. The intersection and new roads go through the middle of my business.
- Where does the semi-industrial area of Glenwood go? Please invite and bring rep to participate in future planning.
- Please do improve Glenwood. Improve the river side. That should be your focus.
- Consider a handmade clock tower at the traffic signal. Free Glenwood wi-fi site for local businesses and to draw customers. Probably <5 transponders could wire the whole area.
- Commercial ground level, office 2nd floor, residential 3rd floor buildings.
- It's a bummer. The folks decide to slum it under the bridge.

- I moved to Glenwood because it was rural. No curbs, no sidewalks. Now you want to make it an “active urban community”. Why not make your dreams come true in Eugene and Springfield. They are already active and urban. Why blight Glenwood?
- Are there any plans concerning redesigning the I-5 Franklin Ave. exit?
- Stop wasting our tax dollars. Fix what you got!
- The 172’ design seems excessive. If it must go big maybe the 159’ would work.
- The EMX is a boondoggle. This concept does nothing but expand this waste of tax payers money. The roundabout proposal is not acceptable. Everyone I know hates all of the others that have been shoved down their throats. Springfield and Glenwood have many other projects in process and /or been proposed yet to be completed. This process circumvents measure 5 tax limits through bond indebtedness just to name a few.
- Looks like it’s coming along. Good to see input from the community and businesses.