OP CENTRAL
MASTER PLAN & DESIGN STRATEGIES FOR THE OVERLAND PARK CORRIDOR

PERKINS+WILL
JUNE 2018
Located south of Kansas City in Overland Park, the College Boulevard and Metcalf Avenue study area is a showcase for the evolution of a 20th century office park to an active urban landscape. The College and Metcalf corridor currently supports a high density of jobs—over 30,000 jobs are located within a 1-mile radius of the intersection of College and Metcalf, representing approximately 30% of all primary jobs within the City of Overland Park (US Census Bureau LEHD, 2015). With regional studies indicating that demographic changes have begun to fuel demand for different types of neighborhoods in the Kansas City metropolitan area (ULI, 2018), the College and Metcalf study area is uniquely positioned to support innovative mixed-use development.

The 6 month-long master planning process began with detailed workplace and community research. This research was conducted with a consortium of local stakeholders who articulated how the issues of experience, mobility, and economic development intertwine and require authentic, place-based design strategies. Feedback from visioning sessions, focus groups, and a community workforce survey led to the development of five big themes that frame the physical design recommendations of the master plan. Understanding that a sense of place consists of knowledge and feelings developed through everyday experiences, the OP Central Master Plan recognizes social connection as paramount and translates the five aspirational themes into actionable physical improvements. The flexible palette of design strategies for the public and private realm proposes a “third work space,” characterized by a diversity of daily experiences through open space engagement, pedestrian movement, and the introduction of retail and food amenities. In the translation of the five themes to actionable improvements, OP Central draws on the ecological heritage of Kansas to blur the typologies of landscape, streetscape, and program in support of active street life and a connected community of commercial partners.

The planning process was completed with the support of the Mid-America Regional Council’s (MARC) Planning Sustainable Places program, and the cooperation of MARC, the City of Overland Park, Visit OP, and the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce. This interactive report documents the multi-stakeholder planning effort from the physical CHALLENGES investigated during the analysis phase, the VISION and SOLUTIONS developed with stakeholders, and the collaborative engagement PROCESS that informed the entire journey.

Sources: US Census Bureau, Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD), 2015 data
The historic pattern of physical development around the intersection of College Boulevard and Metcalf Avenue has produced several challenges for the transition to a walkable, vibrant economic hub. A district designed for automobile efficiency as the primary and nearly only mode of transportation has created a place that is less desirable to walk within. The lack of a desirable and enjoyable public realm leads to less vibrancy.

The primary challenges for the study area also highlight many opportunities to be explored. Overland Park is a great place to live and work, especially within this study area. To create a place with vibrancy, opportunity exists to integrate places for play and a mix of uses. The following chapter illustrates the many challenges to solve within the physical environment, but also highlight the unique opportunity to create a well-connected, vibrant, and walkable place within the city.
The study area is made up of 470 acres located in Overland Park, Kansas, a suburb of the Kansas City Metropolitan area. It’s generally located 26 miles south of KCI Airport and 3 miles south of Overland Park City Hall.
Contextual elements such as current zoning, business types, user groups and building/site typologies were gathered to provide a better understanding of what the current conditions and uses were in the study area. The study area is primarily composed of office uses, along with retail and commercial.
The 470 acres of the study area spans one and half miles with large building footprints and limited walkability. Buildings within the study area are also very spread out, making it necessary to drive, rather than walk.
Current scale of the streets allocates a majority of the roadway width to the automobile, with limited space (approximately 10 feet) dedicated to the pedestrian user.
SCALE AND DENSITY

The buildings and their sites within the study area are large and spread out. By looking at a campus with a similar office land use, with an even higher number of workers, it is clear there are opportunities to increase the amount of density, to provide a mix of uses including housing, and to provide more green spaces and walkable active environments.

**SCALE & DENSITY**

**COLLEGE AND METCALF STUDY AREA, OVERLAND PARK KANSAS**

- 470 ACRES
- 10,000+ jobs
- 0 units of housing
- One 1/2 acre public park

**FACEBOOK, WILLOW CAMPUS**

- 59 ACRES
- 17,000 jobs
- 1,500 units of housing
- Seven 1/2 - 2 acre public parks
The study area has limited open green space areas and pedestrian trails, limiting the amount of activity within the corridor.
The native landscape eco-regions as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency, provide a useful and informative understanding of plant types, geomorphology, and a general glimpse at the landscape character.

**OSAGE CUESTAS**

“A gently undulating cuesta plain composed of several alternating layers of sandstone, limestone, and shale. Potential natural vegetation ranges from a mosaic of mostly tallgrass prairie in the west to a mixture of tallgrass prairie and oak-hickory forest in the east, with floodplain forests along streams. The moister, silty clay loams are formed in material weathered from limestone and shale, and support a land use composite of cropland, woodland, and grassland/rangeland.”

**WOODED OSAGE PLAINS**

“A broad transition region, shifting from a mosaic of prairie and woodland to a more extensive woodland land cover. Forest density generally increases from west to east, especially in Missouri, and land use reflects this change in the mosaic of woodland, cropland, and grassland/rangeland, with less cropland than in neighboring Osage Cuestas. Soils are similar to Osage Cuestas, but with a greater density of forest type soils. In addition, the limestone present in the subsurface bedrock strata is greater than in the Osage Cuestas.”
The watershed follows the topography of the region that slopes down towards the central part of the study area and connects further north under I-435 to Indian Creek and the Blue River Watershed.
NATURAL SYSTEMS | LAND COVER | Paved material is the dominant feature of the study area’s land cover, covering 47% of the study area. While some of this paved space represent sidewalks, a large proportion of this component is paved surface devoted to the automobile, limiting space for people to gather.
ZONING ASSESSMENT

CP-0 Planned Office building district is the predominant zoning classification in the study area, making up 80 percent of zoned land. A majority of the areas zoned Planned Office are used for land uses identified as office as shown in the business inventory graphic. The remainder of land uses in the areas zoned planned office (CP-0) are medical, hotel, and government services.

The remaining 20 percent of the study area is zoned commercial business (restricted and general), business park, recreation, and residential.
Existing traffic volumes along Metcalf Avenue are heavy with approximately 40,000 cars a day at the intersection of Metcalf and College. The reduced amount of traffic to the east of Metcalf Avenue provides the opportunity to look at additional mobility options.

**TRAFFIC VOLUMES**

**AVERAGE ANNUAL DAILY TRAFFIC (AADT)**

**SOURCE** | City of Overland Park, Traffic and Transportation, Traffic Volume Map, 2015-2018
WALKABILITY | The block scale along the College Boulevard is limiting the pedestrian with long block lengths and no breaks. The current condition provides opportunities to break down the scale making it more comfortable and enjoyable for the user.
Studies and behavioral patterns indicate that employees are working outside of the typical office setting and moving themselves into other types of spaces; such as outdoors, co-working spaces or home. Given the number of office workers in the study area, understanding the needs of the current and future workforce is especially important, and a unique aspect of the study. The attraction and retention of workers is vital for the continued success of the area. In support of this success, this study addresses the following key considerations:

- Understanding how people work now;
- What kind of technology is needed to support them;
- How people will work in the future;
- The types of spaces (interior, and exterior) and the amenities people need to successfully collaborate, learn, and to be a part of a connected community space.
As part of the study, workplace themes and the idea of a '3rd workplace' were discussed and considered as part of the growing and desired activity spaces along the corridor.
The workforce generations are changing and causing a shift in how we look at the work environment and the opportunities it provides for future development and spaces within the public realm.
The changing needs of the workforce show that the workplace is no longer clearly defined as space within a built structure. A similar logic used to describe the components of a successful workplace can also be applied to the public realm.
The highest activity areas are those with a larger concentration of workforce population. The graphic shows more intense activity in darker colors, but also highlights an opportunity to improve activity after 5PM.
WHAT DID PEOPLE SAY?

Through stakeholder involvement and input, the following outcomes are what the project team heard as desires from the business community and public for the future of OP Central:

- Would like to see College more livable, convert from concrete and cars.
- Need to make corridor safe for walking, but also need to provide places to walk to . . .
- College & Metcalf is losing new businesses (and jobs) to other locations due to the lack of density, livability, and walkability.
- Hotels are suffering due to lack of public transit.
- We need more public transportation - can we get more dense?
- This needs to be more distinct, more dramatic, needs to be big.
- This needs to be cutting edge, to leap frog other areas.
OP Central will be a **walkable, engaging and inviting place** including common spaces, a high quality pedestrian environment, programmed events, entertainment venues, and enhanced district identity for the surrounding community to **live, conduct business, attract/retain employees and visitors, foster investments and tourism, and socialize together.**
The existing day in the life for most users in the OP Central area includes a fair amount of driving and very little pedestrian activity, or opportunity for culture, collaboration, and community. A potential for a broad range of pedestrian, bicycle, workplace, and social experiences exist with improvements to the public realm and new development over time.
Beyond the design challenges and opportunities listed above, stakeholders identified the need for more walkability within the district, the need for more activities that build vibrancy past 5PM, and the opportunity to recognize this district as the geographic center of Overland Park.
An estimated unemployment rate of 4% in 2016 decreased to approximately 2.7% in 2018.

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS; US CENSUS BUREAU AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

11th best place to live in the US in 2018

LIVABILITY.COM: TOP 100 BEST PLACES TO LIVE IN 2018

Why Here?

With 30,000 jobs within a 1 mile radius of College and Metcalf, extremely low unemployment, and great quality of life - this district has great opportunity for improvement, investment, and future development over time.

WHY HERE?
Historic Overland Park, shown in the blue dot above, began much farther north than the current College and Metcalf intersection. Over the past century, new development (shown in purple) has moved south and completely surrounded the district.
The College and Metcalf area is now the center of Overland Park, creating a great opportunity for centralized amenities and a city-wide/regional destination.
The Vision for OP Central follows a series of recommendations guided by a goal to solve the challenges; make the area more walkable, vibrant, and engaging for residents, workers and visitors. Key design recommendations include:

- A landscape design and transportation analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats for the suburban project area, with input from key advisory groups and local commercial stakeholders;

- Assessment of open space and public realm challenges including the impacts of street, block and parcel patterns, and asset mapping of key catalyst sites.

- Gain a deeper understanding of the environmental aspects of the corridor to inform the future experiential quality of density, activity, and scale. Development of five emergent themes:

1. Tame the Streets;
2. Park at the Heart;
3. Food, Amenities, and 3rd Workplace;
4. Live + Work + Play; and
5. Green the Public Realm.
FRAMEWORK

This abstract diagram highlights 5 Big Ideas into a comprehensive approach for development of a detailed plan for improvements. All big ideas are the result of the analysis and feedback from stakeholders.
Balance the need to move traffic with pedestrian/bicycle safety along College Boulevard and identify opportunities for specific intersection improvements.
Creation of centralized green spaces for planned programming and activities is an idea that will bring the community together, and allow for recreation opportunities.
The opportunity to create a cluster of connected gathering areas within the corridor which are programmed and digitally connected via a smart grid (to allow users to check availability of the space and current ambient temperature).
05 LIVE+WORK+PLAY

5 BIG IDEAS | LIVE + WORK + PLAY | This slightly redefined concept creates a place that users not only use during business hours, but into the evening hours, extending the activity and vibrancy of the area, in a place where a lot of “work” exists, this adds live & play.
CONCEPT MASTER PLAN | An Illustrative Concept Master Plan shows a comprehensive set of improvements intended to be developed over a longer period of time. First priorities will be improvements to streets for pedestrians and bicycles. Potential longer term improvements may occur through private investment in the community, to create more density and a broader mix of uses.
This plan describes the variety of proposed uses that could take place within OP Central. The addition of residential living is a primary focus west of Metcalf, but also could occur in a variety of mixed use environments. The “3rd Place” concept provides a public realm and amenity environment to promote interaction and collaboration of workers and visitors in OP Central.
Concept Master Plan Highlights

F. The concept plan shows an initial idea of how redevelopment could occur. Any eventual redevelopment of existing parcels could end up very different than this concept plan. Adaptive reuse of existing facilities would be strongly encouraged, as well as redevelopment in a way that promotes active uses on the ground floor, interaction with the streetscape and public realm, plaza spaces for gathering, and service entrances relocated to non-pedestrian zones.

G. College Boulevard improvements, as well as additional cross streets will greatly benefit the pedestrian environment. Slowing down traffic, adding street trees and vegetation, benches and seating/gathering areas, 3rd place elements in the public realm and lane reassignments in the roadway are all strategies to create a more comfortable and vibrant experience.

H. A potential for a new entertainment complex on city owned property to the north of the convention center, with combined structured parking and open space areas could bring new vibrancy, activity on the street, and an active use beyond the 8-5 day. A development like this has the opportunity to act as a catalyst and promote additional redevelopment or adaptive reuse in the corridor.

I. Improvements at the intersection of College and Lamar, as well as along Lamar Avenue would help support a revitalized streetscape environment.

J. An opportunity for a new park space, with improvements to landscape and water features, 3rd place structures, lawn and planting areas, walking paths and seating areas would provide a central space for people to gather, entertain and engage in recreation activities. This space could become a heart at the east end of College, and catalyze new infill development.
This diagrams identifies a variety of transportation focused improvements relating to the creation of a bicycle district, streetscapes, intersections, and lane reassignments along College Boulevard.
IDENTITY

What name do you use when referring to the College & Metcalf Study Area?

IDENTITY | Additional visioning exercises determined the College Boulevard and Metcalf area has various identifiers when users speak of the location. This information led to the creation of ideas for one specific brand and identity for the project area and planning process.
IDENTITY

Many of the group discussions during the planning process focused on creating an overall vision and unique identity for the study area. Input received during the planning process highlighted a desire to see a mix of the above descriptors. The common theme that was heard focused on the creation of an area that is unique and authentic.
Following discussions with stakeholders, the project team worked to create an overall brand concept for the area. This brand concept was used to suggest what improvements and amenities would look and feel like.
The modern and sleek logo and visuals are what have been proposed as a preliminary idea for the graphic brand of OP Central. The name “OP Central” was developed and chosen through several stakeholders sessions. A full branding study is recommended before full adoption of a brand identity for the area.
WHAT’S IN IT FOR US?

EXTEND THE DAY

$2.9B in annual spending (at buildout)

$329M in tax revenues (at buildout)

$5 - 40M investment in public realm improvements

Total additional jobs: 10,676
2,450 retail
6,360 office
1,800 hotel
66 rental residential

SOURCE: projections completed by Johnson Consulting
THE SOLUTIONS

Development of a vision framework for the study area and diagrammatic alternatives based on the five themes that emerged during community engagement exercises created the ultimate vision for OP Central. A variety of detailed solutions have been developed to support this framework. Representation of an east-west “green” pedestrian corridor that aligns with College Boulevard and connects gathering spaces along different route options is one solution.

A key solution was also the translation of the vision into a flexible palette of implementation strategies for the public and private realm, including open space, streetscape, and site specific design improvements. These strategies include:

- Public realm and workplace amenity elements based on Osage Cuestas ecoregion;
- Walkable, safe, and vibrant pedestrian public realm experience;
- Open space gathering areas with programed activities;
- Transportation network and streetscape design alternatives.

Finally, support for the articulation of a ‘place-identity’ grounded in community aspirations and natural assets, with an emphasis on a landscape that cultivates social connections and a resilient mix of retail, commercial, and housing options...
The aerial view shows a long term vision for how the district could redevelop over time. Added housing, mixed use, office, and retail/restaurant/entertainment areas, along with robust public realm improvements are a few key features of the vision.
An expanded and improved public realm includes native plant materials, shaded walks, seating and gathering areas, including “3rd Place” structures to promote collaboration, interactions and community.
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A variety of corridor transportation improvements are suggested at a policy level. Additional descriptions of the details of these policies and potential new programs are provided on the following pages.
Flexible Parking Requirements

Objective
Provide flexibility for future land use changes and encourage the use of shared parking infrastructure, rather than unshared private lots to create a healthy market for parking, where parking spaces are bought, sold, rented and leased like any normal commodity.

Overview
The City of Overland Park currently has parking minimums for new developments. Minimum parking requirements do not consider nuances of the site and the surrounding areas. An alternative approach is parking maximums, which determines a cap on how much parking can be built on site; this is an effective tool to ensure that developments are not over built and provide flexibility to developers to determine how much parking is necessary.

How to implement
The City can amend the Municipal Code (and update the Unified Development Ordinance), Site Design Standards, Section 4.8 to set parking maximums for residential, commercial, and office land uses along the College Boulevard Corridor, and within specified boundaries (pursuant to an established “district” designation). There are several ways flexible parking requirements could be implemented within municipal regulation and policy - for instance, the Municipal Code could support the elimination of minimum parking requirements for various land uses and potentially introduce maximum parking standards to encourage developers to maximize the use of existing/planned facilities.

If changes to parking requirements and additional policies are in place (e.g., in-lieu fee policy), such efforts will encourage a ‘right-size’ approach to the long-term parking program for the corridor and avoid over-parking the area.
AREA WIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

In-Lieu Fee Policy

Objective
Provide an option for developers to opt out of constructing parking and collecting a fee to be used for city-owned shared parking facilities or other multimodal transportation investments. The Concept Master Plan (presented on page 34) identifies potential locations for shared parking facilities.

Overview
A parking in-lieu fee program sets a fee associated for each parking space that developers choose not to construct, when parking minimums or maximums are required by code. An in-lieu fee policy is designed to adjust over time so that fees remain competitive against parking construction costs and ongoing maintenance. For maximum benefit, this policy can be correlated to other area-wide programming to truly realize the benefit for developers in terms on capital and ongoing operational costs. It is important to emphasize that a parking in-lieu fee program is strictly voluntary in nature because a developer, property owner, or lessee has a choice to build the required on-site parking or pay the fee instead. An in-lieu fee policy should not be considered a development impact fee.

How to implement
An in-lieu fee program for the corridor requires specific factors and considerations, such as:

- Identify a fee type on a per parking space basis
- Identify eligibility and area of applicability within the College Boulevard corridor; establish boundaries and types of developments (e.g., new developments) to which an in-lieu fee program will be applied
- Establish approval procedures during the initial planning process
- Set a competitive fee amount that encourages development and economic investment
**AREA WIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS**

**Shared Parking Program**

**Objective**
Minimize the total amount of street-level land dedicated to parking by sharing facilities between land uses with different peak parking periods.

**Overview**
Different land uses often have different peak periods; for example, offices have peak parking during the week between 10 AM and 5 PM and restaurants often have peak parking during the weekday evening hours. A shared parking program requires that parking facilities are shared between land uses, rather than each tenant or development having their own dedicated spaces. Sharing parking results in maximum efficiency of parking supply, regardless of who owns or operates each parking facility.

**How to implement**
Shared parking programs require a policy update for future developments. For existing facilities, a set process and reporting method is needed to identify the number of spaces at each site that are underutilized and available for sharing; each shared space will need to be marked appropriately. The City may also offer incentives to encourage participation from those who own underused parking supply in the area. Insurance agreements may also be necessary to reduce potential liabilities for facility owners/operators in the event of damaged property.
Parking Overlay District

Objective
Allow for flexible, adaptive parking regulations that align with planned uses and support city development policies and design standards for the corridor.

Overview
An overlay district is a regulatory measure that creates a special zoning district. A parking overlay district identifies unique parking provisions within district boundaries; these provisions often include regulations or incentives and guide development within a designated district. These parking provisions may include established parking maximums, an in-lieu fee program, shared parking policy and procedures, and bicycle parking requirements.

How to implement
The City can amend their Municipal Code to incorporate a "College Boulevard Corridor Parking Overlay District", with specific district boundaries and a defined purpose of enacting parking provisions for the corridor. These provisions will require specific district-wide regulations and development guidelines, and can be incorporated into site plan review processes. The introduction of an overlay district will require approval by the City's Planning Commission and City Council.
Transportation Benefit District

Objective
Raise revenue for specific transportation projects and/or improvements along the College Boulevard Corridor through established development fees or sales taxes.

Overview
Cities can form TBDs, quasi-municipal corporations and independent taxing districts, to raise revenue for transportation projects and/or improvements through established mechanisms, such as fees and sales tax. The revenues collected can be used for transportation projects/improvements included in local, regional, and statewide plans; these improvements can include street enhancements, transit service expansion and/or optimization, sidewalks and bikeway development, and Transportation Demand Management (TDM) programs. To align with redevelopment goals, enhancements to the pedestrian realm and bike networks should be prioritized over vehicle access.

How to implement
The City of Overland Park can form a TBD by ordinance to set specific boundaries of the district and transportation projects and/or improvements to be funded with TBD fees. The TBD can be funded by a combination of identified development fees, sales taxes, and parking fees from uses specifically within the established boundaries.
Transportation Management Association

Objective
Create an active group to support transportation improvements within an area and act as a liaison between the city, businesses, and local residents.

Overview
A transportation Management Association (TMA) is a membership based, public-private partnership that are joined into a legal agreement for the purpose of providing and promoting transportation options for commuters and patrons to reduce traffic congestion. A TMA is made up of businesses and municipalities and can support the implementation, monitoring, and promotion of existing or new non-drive alone transportation options.

How to implement
A TMA should be a recognized not-for profit organization with an acting Advisory Board, elected on a one vote per participating business basis. Before a formal TMA can be formed, the founders and the City will need to determine how the group will be funded; a standard approach is a combination of annual dues and local grands. Upon formation, the TMA should work with the City to determine the minimal services and responsibilities under the TMA’s purview – for example funding specific transportation options, leading seasonal promotions, or distributing travel information.

Some example services that could be provided by a TMA include: creating and managing an area wide website/mobile application transportation page; providing updated transportation information to all businesses for distribution; operating a circulator or first/last mile shuttle; leading data collection to monitor impacts of development on parking and other transportation areas. The Massachusetts Coalition of TMAs (website link here) provides further information on how these measures can be successfully implemented and precedents on successful models.
Area Programming and Activation, Placemaking

Objective
Extend the day by activating the area along College Boulevard to create a destination and consistent attractions to draw employees, residents, and visitors.

Overview
It is important that roadway changes be complemented with activation efforts in the public realm. Events, such as food truck events, pop-up markets, or park(ing) day activities, that are aligned with weekday work schedules and Convention Center event scheduling will create more opportunities for employees, visitors, and nearby residents to interact with and experience the benefits of College Boulevard.

How to implement
Prior to planning events, the City should engage with local businesses to secure location for events that are highly visible and compliment the convention center and street improvements. The City, in partnership with VisitOP and potential Transportation Management Association, can lead a community outreach effort to collect event ideas from the local community and develop an annual calendar of events to advertise to employees, visitors, and surrounding neighborhood residents.

Alternatively, a consultant that specializes in community Placemaking can also partner with the city and other organizations to create an approach and detailed implementation plan for activation and programming.

Once an event schedule is created and advertising is in place, Visit OP and/or the Transportation Management Association (TMA) should lead a communications effort to keep the community engaged, understand impacts of events on local businesses, and collect public feedback on program values and impacts on College Boulevard. The ongoing communication effort can include:
Program website
Online and in-person surveys
Standard print materials to be distributed at businesses and community groups
AREA WIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

Pilot street improvements along College Boulevard in the near-term can adjust the transportation environment and generate travel behavior data to guide long-term improvements. Temporary changes to the roadway are a low cost, high impact, and visible way to begin shifting the public perception of the area—the nature of “pilot” projects are meant to be impactful and evaluated within a short timeframe (e.g., a year or less). The flexible nature of the following improvements allow for ongoing data collection to guide strategic design changes and long-term street design decisions.

Temporary improvements include:

- **Painted sidewalk extensions**: Paint or thermoplastic application to extend the pedestrian right-of-way and shorten the distance across an intersection. Treatment can be applied in a color scheme to complement the city and/or area brand to increase visibility; thermoplastic is a more durable material and is more expensive per square foot.

- **Physical lane delineators**: Hit-posts or bollards to provide a physical separation between vehicles and people who walk or bike. For optimal visibility and impact, it is best to place delineators where there is a high potential for conflict between modes.

- **Repurpose travel lanes**: Restripe corridor to narrow the street, slow traffic, and provide more space within the existing right-of-way for non-driving uses. Along College Boulevard, the outside lane (curbside) may be converted into on-street parking as a preliminary approach to adjust driving behavior and create a balance between all modes.

Target Areas

It is important to prioritize improvements that maximize the actual and perceived impact. Success metrics for pilot street improvements should be defined prior to implementation and can be defined by the city; metrics may include:

- Safer driver behavior;
- Increased pedestrian and bicycle activity and awareness;
- Reduced number of collisions;
- Improved pedestrian and bicycle connectivity; and
- Increased perceptions of safety for those who travel without a car.

Actual vehicle speeds and traffic flow, average vehicle delay, driver convenience, and intersection delay are not recommended primary metrics because there is a direct misalignment with the overall vision for the College and Metcalf area in creating a safe and walkable environment for the community. To align with the active, walkable environment that is being planned, speeds no higher than 30 mph are recommended in target areas. Reduced lane widths, on-street parking, and enhanced intersections will help reduce speeds and work towards a comprehensive approach to calming traffic. Based on public input and city goals, near-term improvements will be along College Boulevard, with a focus on intersections to enhance crossings for those on foot or on a bike.

Conceptual “Pilot” Improvements

The temporary “pilot” improvements do not require any changes to existing curbs or right-of-way. The following treatments are recommended:

- Painted curb extensions with safe-hit posts (height range between 1.5 to 4 feet tall)
- Painted on-street parking spaces (approximately 20 feet long and 9 feet wide)
- Painted continental (ladder-style) crosswalks
- Painted refuge islands

Area Wide Policy and Program Efforts

In the near term, efforts can be made to adjust and/or create policies, requirements, and programs to create a positive impact on the area and larger community from future development and transportation investments. Investing time upfront will help ensure a smooth transformation of the project area and will enable the city to leverage private efforts in the overall redevelopment of the corridor. The projects and programs included in this section require little to no capital funds and can be achieved through planning and administrative efforts. Each strategy will contribute to a truly vibrant area by prioritizing space for active, human uses and support economic growth. A cohesive, area-wide effort to adjust the parking system and establish partnerships to maximize future efforts will allow for parking to be consolidated and used as efficiently as possible. As a result, space for vehicle storage will not be over designated and new land opportunities will arise that can be used for infill development and open space/civic spaces.
CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS

RIGHT OF WAY STANDARDS
For mixed-use pedestrian/bike lanes (long-term improvements), a minimum of 12 feet (paved) should be provided, with an additional 2 feet of unlandscaped buffer. This width should be based on expected volumes.

CORRIDOR PLAN IMPROVEMENTS | COLLEGE BOULEVARD TO NALL AVENUE | **Near term** recommendations for College Boulevard include median improvements, opportunities for expanded parking, and improved crosswalks.
Near term recommendations for College Boulevard include median improvements, opportunities for expanded parking, and improved crosswalks.
EXAMPLE PROJECTS

**ASHEVILLE, NC** | ROAD DIET, INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

**EAST ROAD, CHARLOTTE, NC** | 2009, 2 LANES, PLUS PARKING

**DEXTER AVENUE, SEATTLE, WA** | ROAD DIET, INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS, BIKE LANES ADDED, 13,000-15,000 ADT

2017, 1-2 LANES, PLUS PARKING, AND PROTECTED BIKE LANES, 18,500-21,400 ADT
110th Street: Long Term Improvements

An existing and proposed street section along 110th Street, near Lamar Avenue, highlights a potential long-term solution of creating protected bicycle lanes within an expanded easement area, and creating an enhanced public realm.
An existing and proposed street section along College Boulevard, near Glenwood, highlights a potential long-term solution of removing one lane of traffic in each direction for protected bicycle lanes, and an enhanced public realm.
Streetscape Improvements

Improvements on 110th Street, Lamar Avenue, and College Boulevard will help complete a loop of recreation opportunities and space for a range of programs. Redevelopment in this area could occur over time.
PEDESTRIAN PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS | STREETSCAPE ELEMENTS | A complete family of selected streetscape elements, coupled with designed components help support a brand and identity for OP Central, and also promote a range of recreation and programs.
“3rd Place” structures are designed as a kit of parts for various sizes, to support a variety of programmed activities, such as a food truck.
“3rd Place” elements are proposed to create a smart-space, connected community. These spaces will be wifi equipped, include high-efficiency LED lighting, have motion sensors, and environmental data sensors. An app-based system could allow workers and visitors to find detailed information about temperature, comfort, amount of use/availability, and general functions of a space. Creating opportunities for 3rd workplace, and general gathering of people, to create “place”.

SMALL - STREET

LARGE - PARK

MEDIUM - PLAZA

PEDESTRIAN PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS | 3rd PLACE STRUCTURES | “3rd Place” structures would have solar rooftops, be wifi and power equipped, and would allow for various size groups to meet. Large structures could be partially enclosed and “rentable” for events.
“3rd Place” structures are designed as a kit of parts for various sizes, to support a variety of programmed activities, such as a food truck.
# IMPLEMENTATION PLAN / PRIORITIES

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<th>IMPLEMENTATION PLAN / PRIORITIES</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1. RECOMMENDED 1st ACTIONS</strong></td>
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<td>• Painted curb extension</td>
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<td>• Painted on-street parking spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Painted crosswalk</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Painted refuge islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. POLICIES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Implement flexible parking requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Develop in-lieu fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Create parking overlay district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Create mixed-use overlay district to encourage mixed-use development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. PROGRAMS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Develop shared parking program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Develop strategies for food related businesses (food trucks) or food truck overlay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Develop activation and place-making program</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4. PLANS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Develop a plan for the implementation of a permanent public realm / streetscape plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Create wayfinding plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Develop a plan for improvements in current parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5. CITY INVESTMENTS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Consider redevelopment of city-owned properties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Implement permanent public realm / streetscape improvements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Implement wayfinding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Invest in park improvements in current parks and new parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6. FUNDING MECHANISMS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Create transportation management association</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Implement transportation benefit district</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Near term recommendations for College and Metcalf include an expanded bicycle zone at the street’s edge, and improved crosswalks.
INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

Safe-Hit Posts
Spaced 20’ O.C.
(Typical)

CROSSINGS AND INTERSECTIONS | COLLEGE BOULEVARD AND GLENWOOD STREET | Near term recommendations for College and Glenwood include an expanded bicycle zone at the street's edge, opportunities for expanded parking, and improved crosswalks.
Near term recommendations for College and Lamar include an expanded bicycle zone at the streets edge, opportunities for expanded parking, and improved crosswalks.
CROSSINGS AND INTERSECTIONS

INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

Near term recommendations for College and Woodson include an expanded bicycle zone at the street’s edge, opportunities for expanded parking, and improved crosswalks.

SAFE-HIT POSTS SPACED 20’ O.C. (TYPICAL)
Near term recommendations for College and Nall include an expanded bicycle zone at the street’s edge, and improved crosswalks.
The planning process for OP Central focused on intensive analysis of the public realm, but relied upon listening, and vetting of what was heard through a range of focus groups, workshops, public open houses, and detailed work sessions with numerous stakeholders. Early on in the process it was clear that nearly all were in agreement that walkability within the study area was a primary concern, and solving this issue could lead to a successful result.

Several workshops were held with various stakeholders who are influencers in the Business, Development, Hospitality, and Workplace Community. As part of the planning process these stakeholders were engaged in group discussions and tasked with providing feedback on analysis ideas, and proposed concepts.

A continuation of this strong public input, with a key focus from dedicated stakeholders to help guide the plan through to implementation will also be a key to its success. The steering committee has been extremely passionate about seeing this plan through, and has begun to identify initial recommendations for implementation.
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Steering Committee
4 Meetings

Workplace Group
September 13, 2017

Online Survey
201 Respondents
October 12 - 26, 2017

Developer Group
November 1, 2017

Hospitality Group
November 2, 2017

Business and Community Public Meetings
January 9, 2018
75+ Attendees

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT | Steering Committee member, the business community and the Public were engaged throughout the planning process to gain an understanding of the communities vision and an opportunity to provide input.
Several workshops were held with various stakeholders who are influencers in the Business, Development, Hospitality, and Workplace Community. As part of the planning process these stakeholders were engaged in group discussions and tasked with providing feedback on proposed concepts.
COMMUNITY SURVEY

PURPOSE

Gather community perspectives on critical issues facing the College & Metcalf Study Area that will inform strategies to create a more vibrant business, commerce, and recreation destination.

COLLECTION: October 12, 2017 - October 26, 2017

NOTE: Survey data is anonymous and results are reported in aggregate.
**1. Accessibility**

Accessibility – including transportation and walkability – was the most discussed topic.

**2. Hospitality & Amenities**

Lack of essential amenities like grocery stores and pharmacies as well as limited food options, especially healthy food and places with extended hours.

**5. Culture & Identity**

The culture of the area is not unique, has no character, is not cool, and has no “fun factor.”

**6. Events & Activities**

People indicated the need for activities to engage people – everything from farmer’s markets to live music.

**3. Land Use, Zoning, & Economic Development**

City sprawl, dominant presence of parking lots, and the cost to start a business are challenges to economic development.

**4. Social Factors & Community Engagement**

The area is family friendly but missing a strong sense of community. The absence of a true downtown area, gathering spaces, and public open space contributes to a socially disconnected district.

**7. Building Design**

The large office setbacks and parking lots however, offer opportunities to reclaim land and create more interesting, unique, and modern architecture.

SURVEY | We heard 7 themes during the planning process with accessibility to transportation options and walkability identified as the top priority. It was also determined a need for focusing on the lack of hospitality and amenities, such as grocery stores and food options.
STAKEHOLDERS

STAFF ADVISORY GROUP | BETH DAWSON, MID-AMERICA REGIONAL COUNCIL
KATE GUNJA, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
JACK MESSER, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
LESLIE KARR, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

STAFF ADVISORY GROUP | BETH DAWSON, MID-AMERICA REGIONAL COUNCIL
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STEERING COMMITTEE | KEITH COPAKEN, COPAKEN BROOKS
ALLEGRA GASSMAN, MIDWEST TRUST COMPANY
BETH JOHNSON, OVERLAND PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
DANA MARKELL, VISIT OVERLAND PARK
BRET MITCHELL, OVERLAND PARK CONVENTION CENTER

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WORKPLACE GROUP | AARON ATTEBERY, BLACK & VEATCH
BRUCE BOETTCHER, SHERATON
RON BOXBERGER, SHERATON
MONICA BREDE, KS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
JON DANDURAND, JE DUNN CONSTRUCTION
ANNE ERICKSON, JLL
JORDAN GALLANT, PRIME CAPITAL INVESTMENT ADVISORS
TRACY GARRY, EMPOWERMENT RETIREMENT
TERRY GOODMAN, OVERLAND PARK CITY COUNCIL
SHAWN HARDING, HMN ARCHITECTS
JERRY HELLEBUSCH, MORGAN HUNTER

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JERRY HELLEBUSCH, MORGAN HUNTER

STAKEHOLDERS | The above committee members and community participants were involved in the planning process and helped in shaping the vision for OP Central.
### HOSPITALITY GROUP

- **TYLER AGNIEL, HILTON GARDEN INN**
- **CHRIS BELL, HILTON GARDEN INN**
- **BRUCE BOETTCHER, SHERATON**
- **RON BOXBERGER, SHERATON**
- **RANDY KLUGE, DRURY INN & SUITES**
- **MINDY LALLIER, VISIT OVERLAND PARK**
- **CHRISTINA LIVINGSTON, POTBELLY SANDWICH SHOP**
- **LISA MCMACHON, IFLY OVERLAND PARK**
- **CLAY MOON, DRURY INN & SUITES**
- **SHERRY NOVICK, DOUBLETREE HOTEL AND EMBASSY SUITES**

### PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS

- **PEGGY AMOR**
- **DAVID AMSTUTZ**
- **ERIN BELENKY**
- **AARON BELENKY**
- **BERTT BOGAN**
- **MARY BOGNICH**
- **HARRY BOGNICH**
- **TOM CARIGNAN**
- **MATT CHRISTENSEN**
- **MIKE COLLINS**
- **CRAIG COOPER**
- **STACEY COWAN**
- **AUSTIN DURING**
- **MIKE FLANAGAN**
- **ERIN FOXWORTHY**
- **BOB GADD**
- **AMY GARTON**
- **SCOTT GENHTE**
- **MARY GERDES**
- **STACIE GRAM**
- **TERRY HAPPERSCHEIER**
- **ROBIN HARROLD**
- **AMBER HELMS**
- **DAVE HILL**
- **LYNN HORSLEY**
- **ANDREW HOUCHEN**
- **CHRIS JACKSON**
- **JIM KITE**
- **ROB KREWSON**
- **MIKE LILLY**
- **CINDY MARTENS**
- **MEGAN MCQUEEN**
- **HANNAH METCALF**
- **GREG MUSIL**
- **TRACY OSBORNE**
- **JOHN PICKETT**
- **JESSICA REEDSHULTZ**
- **NED REITZES**
- **PAM RIST**
- **NATHAN RIST**
- **REBECCA ROBERTS**
- **ANDREA ROME**
- **JAY ROME**
- **LAURIE SANTIE**
- **BARB SILIN**
- **CURT SKOOG**
- **BRIAN SPILLMAN**
- **JANIE THACKER**
- **STEVE TROESTER**
- **DAVID WILLIG**
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Name ... contact information

Lead Consultant:

PERKINS+WILL

Transportation Planning:

NELSON NYGAARD

Community Engagement:

SHOCKEY CONSULTING

Financial Assessment:

JOHNSON CONSULTING