ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GOVERNMENTS

CERI SYMPOSIUM RECAP

Transforming Hometown Oklahoma
Tuesday, May 10, 2022
Capitol View Event Center
68 attendees
EL RENO
ROUTE 66/SUNSET DRIVE CORRIDOR STUDY
The Corridor Study area consists of Sunset Drive in El Reno, between Petree Plaza and Adams Park. Between both landmarks is one mile of Route 66, named Sunset Drive.

Through community engagement and interviews with stakeholder groups, three major themes arose which became the three pillars of the Sunset Drive project:

1. A Safe Place for All
2. Community & Economic Development
3. Public Image
EL RENO: ROUTE 66/SUNSET DRIVE CORRIDOR STUDY

RECOMMENDATIONS
1. A Safe Place for All
   • Pedestrians feel safe crossing the street
   • Pedestrians feel safe walking on the sidewalks

2. Community & Economic Development
   • Public commitment to creating a district that attracts entrepreneurs to Sunset Drive
   • Businesses and services on Sunset Drive that serve tourists and locals alike

3. Public Image
   • There is civic pride for Sunset Drive
   • Properties are well-maintained & attractive

4. Tourism
   • Tourists respond to cues inviting them to stop & get out of their cars
   • Tourists easily navigate Route 66 in El Reno
GUTHRIE
The Elbow Cultural & Recreational Area Plan
The area known as The Elbow in Guthrie, was an African American community founded in 1903. After over a century of flooding, the neighborhood was condemned. Some residents relocated, while others decided to stay.

Traditionally, society builds museums and erects monuments to honor history and culture. For the Guthrie CERI Project, these methods are not available, due to no structure being built within a floodway; therefore, the Elbow community will be recreated virtually.

Visitors to the site will walk the former streets which have been reimagined as greenway trails, gaze upon virtual recreations of the buildings while viewing historic photos and listening to interviews of former residents and their descendants.
RECOMMENDATIONS

• Allow the former residents and their descendants to name the recreational and cultural area

• Continue to build the augmented reality model by gathering interviews and family memorabilia.

• Restore S. 5th St. to connect the Recreational and Cultural area to Downtown and install on-street parking and pedestrian pathways

• Develop city-owned land along S.5th Street into socializing spaces to attract people to the Recreational and Cultural Area

• Build a pedestrian/serve vehicle bridge over Cottonwood Creek at W. Perkins Ave. to connect to the Recreational and Cultural Area
HARRAH
Downtown Sweeney Switch Plan
The goal of the Harrah CERI project is to provide a framework to transform downtown Harrah into a walkable destination branded as Sweeney Switch.

Harrah may seem like a typical rural Oklahoma town, but its circumstances are changing rapidly. The new Kickapoo Turnpike is inducing rapid growth of exurban development in large-lot residential subdivisions. Commercial development is sure to follow. The challenge is to avoid car dependent sprawl and funnel shops and businesses into a revitalized town center.
HARRAH: Downtown Sweeney Switch Plan

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Sweeney Switch plan is organized into five big moves:

• Remove downtown Harrah from the regulatory floodplain using natural barriers and compensatory storage

• Calm traffic and improve the streetscapes of Church Avenue, Main Street, and Tim Holt Drive

• Devise a parking strategy primarily using on-street angled parking

• Connect downtown with the parks, schools, and neighborhoods by expanding trails

• Encourage mixed-use downtown development of vacant lots and rehabilitation of older buildings
CERI PROGRAM
Q&A
CERI PROGRAM Q&A PANELISTS
(from left to right)

Dustin Downey | City Planner, City of El Reno

Justin Fortney | Tourism Director, City of Guthrie

Lewis Moore | City Manager, City of Harrah

Shane Hampton | Director, OU IQC

Moderator: Christopher Bluth | ACOG Interim Community & Economic Development Manager