Summary of April 21st Meeting

Approximately 52 persons attended the April 21st meeting. An overview of the corridor and the planning process was presented by the project planning staff. It was noted that this is the beginning of a 9-15 month planning process to develop a plan for the West Washington Street corridor area. The plan will provide a guide for zoning, land use, development methods, City improvements, and grant applications.

Staff presented background information on the corridor. An interview summary handout was also distributed, which contained a list of issues and concerns that were gathered from interviews with community members. A copy of the interview summary handout is available under Maps & Other Documents section. Additional comments related to issues, community assets, liabilities and needs were solicited from the audience. The main topics identified included: Pedestrian Connectivity, Infrastructure, Streetscape, Site Development, and lack of Green Space.

The meeting concluded with a group exercise that allowed participants to rate those issues that were of most importance to them. The list of the top ten rated issues from this exercise is displayed below.

Top Ten highest-rated planning priorities for the West Washington Street corridor
1. Flooding and poor drainage.
2. Don’t need any more car lots.
3. Lack of sidewalks along Lynhurst Drive.
4. (tie) Lack of sidewalks along Washington Street.
4. (tie) Walking is difficult because of parking or display of cars next to the street.
6. Trash and debris
7. Sanitary sewers seem to be undersized.
8. Light rail transit service
9. (tie) Lack of sidewalks leading to Rhoades School
9. (tie) Poor street lighting.
9. (tie) Lack of building and site maintenance
9. (tie) Many existing commercial sites don’t meet current zoning development standards.
9. (tie) Need for health care.
9. (tie) Need to reinforce existing small businesses.