

East Eighth Street Corridor Report

Summary

In July 2019, at Councilor Theresa Stehly's request, Councilors Janet Brekke, Pat Starr, Greg Neitzert, City staff, and several Eighth Street businesses gathered regarding concerns the businesses had about the homeless and vulnerable in the area. Several businesses reported that their patrons had experienced panhandling, and aggressive behavior had increased by some of the homeless in the area.

At a follow-up meeting with the service agencies and local businesses in September, Sioux Falls Police addressed concerns and issues that they had experienced. Calls in the area had increased, much due to public intoxication.

Following the September meeting, City Housing and Planning staff met one-on-one with almost 20 businesses, service agencies, and police to understand and mediate some of the issues that have been brought up. The general themes that were discussed are categorized into these issues:

- Loitering, vagrancy, and panhandling.
- Safety, traffic, pedestrians, intoxication, and aggressiveness.
- Appearance, littering, and restroom usage.
- Enabling, accountability, and rules.
- Concentration and increased numbers of homeless individuals.

Based on consultation with business owners, service providers, police, and City staff, objectives have been drafted to begin a process that can help improve and revitalize the area based on this East Eighth Street Corridor Report.

This report provides the strategies developed as a part of the first stage of this corridor study and redevelopment planning process. The report also includes the next steps in the process of the East Eighth Street Corridor study including plans for a public involvement and education.

Background

Much of what has been discussed during the public meetings and one-on-one meetings has been how to work with the service agencies in the Eighth Street corridor area and how to improve homelessness in the corridor area. Below is some background information to provide a basis for developing strategies.

Next Steps

- ❑ Present this report at the first meeting of the East Eighth Street Business Association.
- ❑ Continue dialogue with the Sioux Falls Police Department, other City departments, and area service agencies to continue to improve the neighborhood.
- ❑ Develop a website and provide information at neighborhood meetings that provide stakeholders an understanding of how the corridor affects property and the process involved to develop and redevelop land.
- ❑ Market the website to the Eighth Street corridor stakeholders (including all people within the identified corridor area).
- ❑ Include this East Eighth Street study area within the next update of the Downtown Plan and explore opportunities to coordinate and share resources with the East Bank of Downtown.
- ❑ Have city staff provide continued assistance to the new East Eighth Street Business Association.
- ❑ City staff shall continue to work to address all recommendations of this study with the East Eighth Street Business Association.