

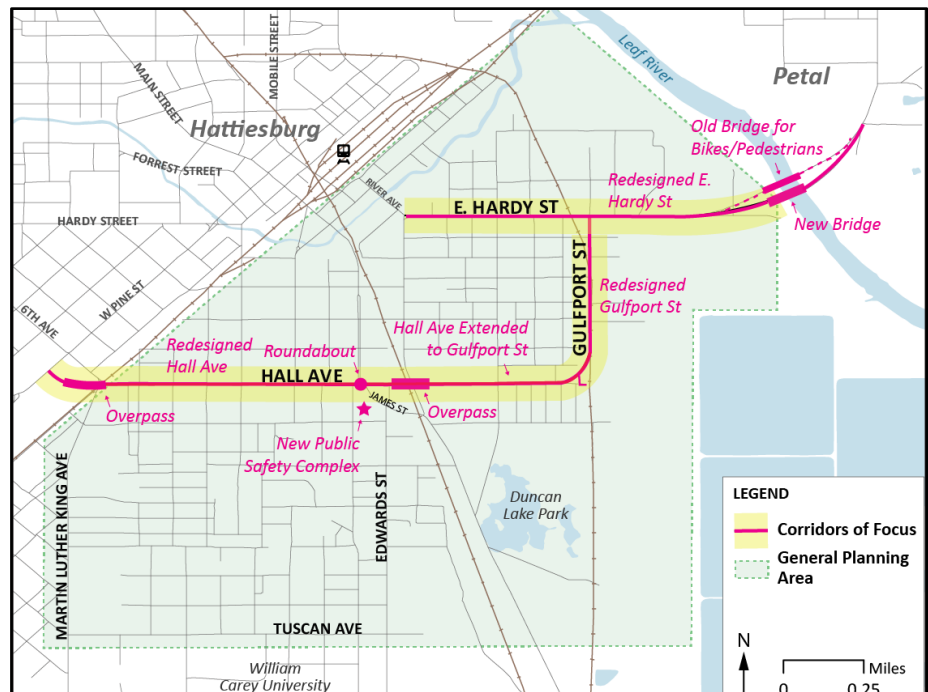


BRIDGING DIVIDES, BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES:

A Community-Driven Blueprint for East Hardy Street & Hall Avenue

Project Information

Since 2017, the City of Hattiesburg and its partners helped lay the foundation for more than \$55 million in projects along the Hall Avenue and East Hardy corridors—including two railway overpasses funded by federal grants. These game-changing projects will bridge divides and build opportunities for generations to come. The railway overpasses will allow people to travel to and from Downtown and East Hattiesburg without having to stop for cargo trains. This, combined with new, extended and redesigned streets, will create a road network that will allow people to travel more easily through Hattiesburg and the region. When complete, this road network



will give the Hall Avenue, Gulfport Street and East Hardy Street corridors greater visibility to residents and visitors traveling through the area. This will expand the customer base for existing businesses and services and create potential for more economic activity along and near the corridors through new businesses, expansions of existing businesses and redevelopment. The ***Bridging Divides, Building Opportunities*** project is re-imagining the futures of these corridors. The result of this project will be a community-driven blueprint that identifies economic development, redevelopment and creative placemaking opportunities that harness the energy generated by a connected transportation network.

Spring 2022 Project Updates

1. December 7 Community Workshop

Fifty people participated in the first of two community workshops held on December 7, 2021 in the Community Room at the Train Depot. The workshop featured a series of exhibits about the corridors for participants to browse. The City's planning consultants gave a presentation that suggested an approach to revitalizing the corridors that focuses on redevelopment of properties near important intersections, including East Hardy Street at River Street, Tipton Street and Gulfport Street. Participants spoke about a range of issues, such as the need to make East Hardy Street more hospitable and inviting, starting with sidewalks; investing in the neighborhoods; and the challenges of improving or developing property in a floodplain.



The presentation and the exhibits can be downloaded from the project webpage at www.hattiesburgms.com/buildingopportunities. To read an article and view a video segment about the community workshop on WDAM 7's website, visit www.bit.ly/wdamarticle.

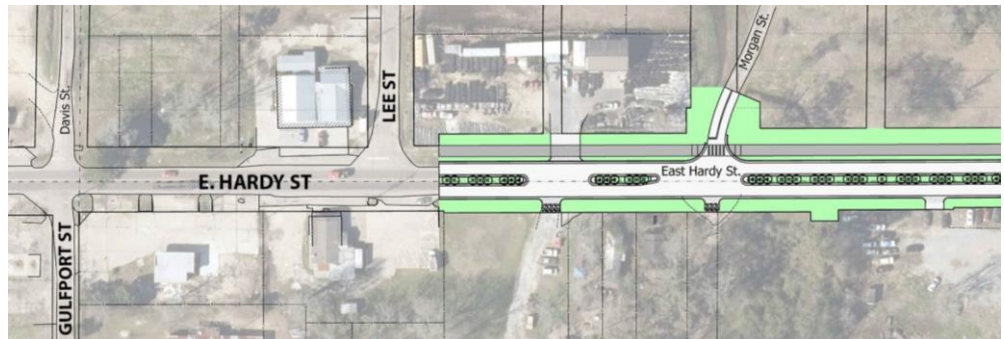
2. Take the Corridor Revitalization Survey

During the first Community Workshop, one of the exhibits asked participants to identify businesses, services and other amenities that are needed or that would be appropriate to locate along the East Hardy Street and/or Hall Avenue corridors. In order to allow for more input from workshop participants into this important topic and to give people who were not at the workshop the opportunity to provide input, we have converted the exhibit into an online format. Please visit www.bit.ly/bdbosurvey or scan the QR code to the right with your cell phone. If you do not have access to the Internet, please call the Planning Division at (601) 545-4599.



3. Sections of East Hardy Street to Be Redesigned

Several participants at the first Community Workshop noted that East Hardy Street needs to be a more hospitable and inviting place. It turns out that East Hardy Street between Lee Street and the Leaf River will be redesigned as part of the project to replace the



East Hardy Street bridge that is currently underway. The area of East Hardy Street between Gulfport Street and Lee Street will be redesigned as part of the creation of a new Gulfport Street. As part of this project, concepts for redesigning East Hardy Street from Williams Street to Gulfport Street will be developed.

4. Funds Allocated to Implement the Conceptual Redesign of Edwards Street

Several years ago, the City started a project for redesigning Edwards Street between James Street and Tuscan Avenue. The resulting concepts show two lanes of traffic with a stormwater median, street trees, bicycle lanes, sidewalks with decorative and pervious paving, crosswalks and additional lighting. The City recently announced that the project has been allocated \$2 million in federal funds toward design, engineering and construction.



5. Second Community Workshop Set for June

The second Community Workshop is scheduled for June 22 at 4 pm – 6 pm at Jackie Dole Sherrill Community Center. We will present the results of the survey and show preliminary concepts for redevelopment along East Hardy Street.

If you have any questions or would like to provide additional input into the future of the corridors and the surrounding areas, please e-mail planning@hattiesburgms.com.

If you do not have access to the Internet and would like more information, please call the Planning Division at (601) 545-4599

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