



BRIDGING DIVIDES, BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES:

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

Summer 2022 Project Update

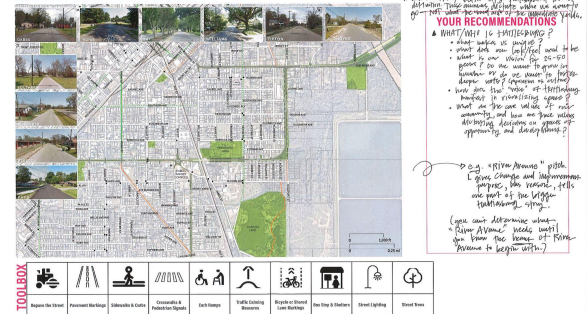
1. June 22 Community Workshop

Thank you to the more than 50 people who participated in the second community workshop held on June 22, 2022 at the Jackie Dole Sherrill Community Center! The following topics were discussed at the workshop:

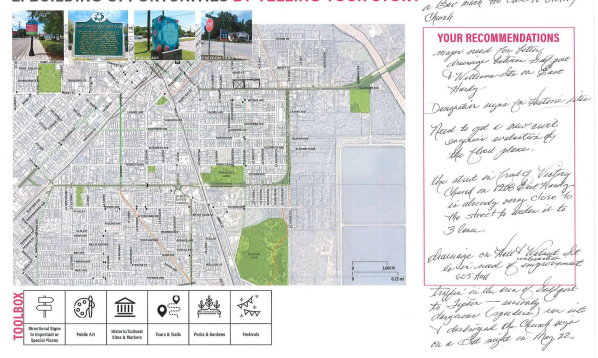
- **Corridor Revitalization Survey.** The Corridor Revitalization Survey asked people to select land uses from a wide variety of land use types that could be appropriate for East Hardy Street, Hall Avenue, James Street, and/or Edwards Street. The results of the survey were presented and discussed. See the next page for more details on the survey results and how they will inform the overall revitalization plan for the area.
- **Improving Neighborhood Streets.** With all of the investment in the overpasses and redesigning Hall Avenue, Gulfport Street, and most of East Hardy Street, workshop participants also want to see neighborhood streets get the attention they deserve. Participants highlighted Improvements that included everything from repaving streets and resolving drainage issues to placing bus shelters at bus stops and managing trash containers. One of the topics that rose to the tops was walkability and the need for sidewalks. Tipton Street, which connects East Hardy Street and Hall Avenue, is one of the most critical streets that should be improved.
- **Telling Your Story.** As more people start traveling through East Hattiesburg, East Jerusalem and other neighborhoods should “tell their stories.” Their people, culture, and history going back to J.J. Newman Lumber, which was located along the Leaf River, should be celebrated. As a start, the City’s wayfinding signs should continue from downtown into East Hattiesburg, identifying neighborhoods and directing people to important destinations such as parks, churches, historical places, and commercial areas. Gateways treatments and public art should be created. Participants also suggested changing the name of East Hardy Street back to “River Avenue.”



1. BRIDGING DIVIDES & BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES BY IMPROVING KEY NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS



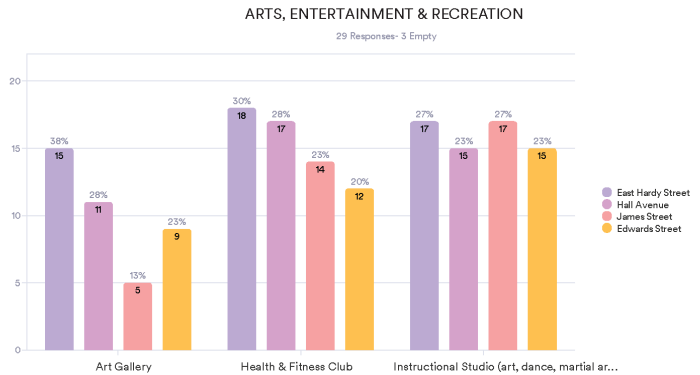
2. BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES BY TELLING YOUR STORY



To see all of the notes that were written up during the workshop discussion and to view photos of the worksheets that participants filled out (examples pictured above), visit this [Google Photos Album](#).

2. Corridor Revitalization Survey Results

The purpose of the Corridor Revitalization Survey was to hear directly from neighborhood residents, business owners, and property owners their thoughts about appropriate land uses for East Hardy Street, Hall Avenue, James Street, and Edwards Street. The land uses choices provided in the survey covered a wide variety of topics including arts, entertainment, and recreation uses to medical facilities and residential space. The survey also allowed people to provide open-ended comments.



Edwards Street

Edwards Street received a number of responses and comments as an appropriate location for new medical facilities. Doctor's offices and medical services are currently lacking within the area. Edwards Street also received the most support for locating new residential spaces, ranging from apartments and townhouses to detached houses and senior housing. There's a lot going for Edwards Street that could contribute to its revitalization. Edwards Street properties are not in a floodplain and they tend to be relatively sizeable. Furthermore, Edwards Street is important in the regional roadway network because it provides access to the area from Route 49. The street continues a few blocks east of William Carey University and ends at James Street at a highly visible intersection. Finally, funds have been approved for the redesign of the street from James Street to Tuscan Avenue and several blocks farther south.

East Hardy Street

East Hardy Street is almost entirely in a floodplain. Flood insurance premium high costs are a barrier to development. The survey results indicated that East Hardy Street is envisioned to be a suitable location for a mix of commercial land uses such as health clubs, instructional studios, art galleries, retail stores, restaurants and coffee shops, and food markets.

Hall Avenue

Hall Avenue has a more residential character than the other study area corridors. The segment between Ronie Street and James Street is in a historic district. Closer to James Street, the properties transition from residential to one block of commercial uses that generally retain a residential character. This block, which is located between Morton Street and Bay Street, is zoned B-1 Professional Business.

James Street

James Street is already well-positioned for revitalization given its proximity to the Public Safety Complex and the ownership of all of the properties by a single entity. These properties are within a historic district. Plans are in the works for two new commercial buildings next to Sullivan's Grocery that will likely contain restaurants or other food-related uses. A plan to convert a small building into a coffee shop is also in the works.

The discussion of land uses prompted participants to discuss opportunities for and challenges to revitalization. Participants identified several sites in the neighborhood that are important to the community, including the temporary police station, for which there is support for turning into a community center.



To view a PDF of the survey results, [click here](#).

3. Next Steps

The next steps in the process include the following:

- Outline and prepare the revitalization plan, which will contain the strategies for revitalizing the East Hardy Street, Hall Avenue, James Street, and Edwards Street corridors, recommendations for improving neighborhood streets, and methods to help the neighborhoods “tell their stories.”
- Start the implementation phase, which will begin with examining the zoning regulations and recommending changes that will facilitate private investment in properties along the corridors in accordance with the revitalization plan.

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.