

AFTERNOON PUBLIC MEETING (MEETING MINUTES)

PROJECT: Indiana State Prison Re-Imagination Strategy
MEETING DATE: 3/13/2025
TIME: 1:30-3:00 PM
LOCATION: 100 E Michigan Blvd, Michigan City, IN (EOC Room)
ALCO RECORDING: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qoelhToUAiw>

CITY AND DESIGN TEAM PRESENTERS

EDCMC/City of Michigan City

- Mayor Angie
- Clarence Hulse

Farr Associates

- Mercedes Miley
- Cameron Rogers

AGENDA

1. Welcome from Mayor Angie
2. Hello from Clarence
3. Presentation from Mercedes
 - a. Timeline of the project
 - b. Background of the project
 - c. Connectivity
 - i. Image preference survey
 - d. Land Use
 - i. Image preference survey
 - e. Economic Development
 - i. Development and community input preference
 - f. Design
 - i. What we heard from the previous public meeting
 - ii. Additional ideas?
4. Presentation from Mayor Angie and Clarence
 - a. Visit to the Liberty Crest Apartments in Lorton, Virginia
5. Closing

TAKEAWAYS

Connectivity

- Community members emphasized safety regarding US-12 that runs just north of the ISP Site and may be the primary access point to Downtown, the Region, and the National Park.
 - o Several people discussed an enhanced pedestrian crossing and the emphasis on traffic speeds and safe crossings. Avoiding an at-grade crossing was desirable to avoid high speeds but not desirable for a personal safety standpoint.
 - o The design team did not suggest a final solution but proposed that all options, including an overpass, underpass, or remain at grade crossing are in play.
 - o Some also mentioned a traffic light being necessary to ensure pedestrian safety with the high speeds.
 - o The City currently has an engagement to re-stripe US-12, but the right-of-way itself is not changing.
- The group discussed reopening the vacant Amtrak station or adding a new stop for the South Shore line near the ISP site.
 - o One member stated that a new Amtrak station doesn't need to be fancy. He used the example of New Buffalo's station where the Amtrak is adjacent to a bus stop.
 - o While this seemed agreeable to many people for a regional connectivity standpoint, it was not discussed at length.

Land Use

- The group discussed the need for a flexible space on the West Side of Michigan City.
 - o Single-use spaces, such as ice-skating rinks or bowling alleys, should be avoided.
 - o Spaces that can adapt to seasonal changes should be encouraged, such as a roller rink in the summer, an indoor farmers market in the winter, and an indoor track available year-round.
- Several attendees suggested the inclusion of a linear park to connect central Michigan City to the National Park was discussed.
 - o One participant stated Michigan City would benefit if the site avoids single-block-like parks and develops a long stretch to connect residents.
 - o The participant included examples with their statement, such as the High Line in New York City.
 - o Farr Associates suggested a similar case study that is taking place in Peoria Heights using a rail-to-trail path to connect residents.
- Attendees expressed mixed reactions regarding a new community center.
 - o The group as a whole agreed to a desire for spaces where residents could come together for social events, educational programs, and recreational activities
 - o Concerns were raised about whether another community center was necessary, given that existing facilities, such as the Hope agency and Boys and Girls Club, already serve similar functions. Some participants argued that resources might be better allocated to enhance these established centers rather than investing in a new one.
- The development of a grocery store on the West Side was discussed and was mostly preferable to the group.
 - o Several members were skeptical that a large supermarket would be feasible. Instead, they suggested a smaller or local retailer, like a Trader Joes.

- The design team is currently performing a market analysis which will include retail feasibility and potential absorption rates.

Economic Development

- A few attendees voiced the importance of maintaining fiscal responsibility and avoiding excessive liabilities that could compromise the city's financial health.
- The design team is currently performing a market analysis which will include retail feasibility and potential absorption rates. As part of this study, the design team also conducted a housing market study which was released to EDCMC. These avenues are informing the market feasibility of any land use or design decisions.

END OF MEETING MINUTES

These minutes represent our understanding of the events, discussions, and decisions made at this meeting. Please contact Mercedes Miley (mercedes@farrside.com) with any additions or corrections from any authorized persons in writing within (7) days from the date of issue.