

19th Street Corridor: A Resident-Sourced Ideas Portfolio

An Open Letter to the Community:

An effective, resident-first process begins long before the first public meeting. It begins with doing the hard work of listening to neighbors, researching the issues, and preparing a foundation for a productive, fact-based conversation.

The document below is a curated portfolio of the community-sourced ideas and potential solutions that served as the foundation for our Community Accountability Workshop on August 13th. It represents the "pre-work" that is essential for a successful collaborative process. This is not an exhaustive list, but a starting point designed to spark a creative and substantive dialogue.

This is what my commitment to being prepared looks like in action.

Part 1: The Tangent Intersection (Existing Issues)

This section addresses the immediate safety concerns at the intersection of the Mines Park/Daycare exit and 19th Street.

Theme: Incomplete Fixes & Lingering Safety Risks

- **"Driver's Seat" Visibility Audit:** A formal audit where residents and city staff sit in a vehicle at the stop sign to document the actual line-of-sight and determine if recent fixes were sufficient.
- **Enhanced Warning Systems:** Installation of oversized, reflective warning signs for drivers, supplemented with flashing LED lights.
- **"Smart" Cyclist Detection System:** A pilot program for a sensor-based system that detects a fast-moving cyclist and activates a flashing warning light for the driver at the stop sign, similar to systems already in use in Golden (e.g. Elk Crossing at 6th Avenue).

Part 2: The Moly Road Crosswalk (Existing Issues)

This section addresses the confusion and safety concerns surrounding the newly installed crosswalk at Moly Road.

Theme 1: Flawed Rollout & Operational Confusion

- **Unified Signage:** Require the city and Mines to immediately remove all conflicting signs and install clear, unambiguous wayfinding.
- **Mines-Funded Pedestrian Education Campaign:** A targeted communication campaign to educate all Mines Park residents on the correct, safe way to use the new crosswalk.
- **"Community Co-Designed" Crosswalk Mural:** A competition, co-judged by residents and Mines students, to design a vibrant, artistic crosswalk mural to enhance visibility and create community buy-in.

Theme 2: Pedestrian Volume vs. Vehicle Flow

- **Permanent Data Counters:** Installation of permanent counters to gather real-world data on usage patterns for both pedestrians and vehicles.
- **Public Accountability Dashboard:** A public dashboard showing traffic wait times and pedestrian counts, with a community-defined "level of service" for vehicle traffic.
- **Peak-Hour Traffic Guard:** A trained crossing guard during peak hours to manually manage pedestrian flow and ensure vehicle traffic can proceed. This idea is currently in place for the creek during peak times.

Part 3: The Elm Street Crossing (Future Plans)

This section focuses on proactively designing the next crossing correctly, using the "Architect's Method."

Theme 1: Traffic Flow & The "Roundabout Freeze"

- **"Smart Signal" Technology with Queue Detection:** An adaptive signal that uses sensors to detect traffic backing up toward the roundabout and adjusts its timing accordingly. Focus is on managing and pooling pedestrians during peak hours.
- **"Anti-Gridlock" Audio Warning:** A polite, automated audio announcement at the pedestrian push-button that explains any signal delays due to heavy traffic, managing expectations and reducing frustration.

Theme 2: Pedestrian & Cyclist Safety

- **In-Pavement Flashing LED Lights:** Lights embedded in the pavement at the crosswalk that flash in sync with the pedestrian signal, providing a highly visible warning to drivers in all weather conditions.
- **"Yield to Pedestrians" Rumble Strip for Cyclists:** A short section of textured pavement in the bike lane before the crosswalk to provide a tactile and audible cue for cyclists to slow down.
- **Long-Term Vision: A Pedestrian Bridge:** As a permanent solution to separate pedestrian and vehicle traffic, begin the long-term planning and feasibility discussions for a pedestrian bridge.

Theme 3: Accountability & Monitoring

- **QR-Code "Near-Miss" Reporting Tool:** A permanent QR code at the crossing that links to a simple online form, allowing residents to instantly report near-misses or unsafe conditions, with the data added to a public dashboard.
- **"Living Lab" Partnership with Mines:** Frame the crossing as a "Living Laboratory" for the Mines Engineering program, allowing students to use the real-world data for projects focused on improving safety and efficiency.

Theme 4: Aesthetics & Neighborhood Character

- **Functional "Bioswale" Landscaping:** Design the landscaped areas as bioswales that actively capture and filter stormwater runoff, combining beautification with sustainable environmental engineering.
- **"Geological" Landscaping:** Partner with the Mines Geology Museum to design the landscaping with rocks and boulders that tell the geological story of the Golden area, turning the space into a point of local educational pride.