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Date: Wednesday, April 06, 2022

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Project: VRT RAISE Grant - State Street Premium Corridor Infrastructure Project

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To: Stephen Hunt, Valley Regional Transit

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From: Lewis Kelley, HDR

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Subject: State Street Engagement History

## Introduction

The State Street corridor has been the subject of focused planning efforts for nearly 20 years starting with an initial Strategic Corridor Plan adopted by the City of Boise and ACHD in 2004. Boise has a strong sense of place and community that the community upholds and wishes to manifest in the places they build. This strong sense of place has continuously driven community involvement along the corridor and created a vision for a walkable and transit focused corridor that provides space for meaningful experiences.

## Community Vision

That first Strategic Corridor Plan gathered nearly one thousand touchpoints with community members and businesses along the corridor. Residents at that time expressed a strong desire for faster and more frequent transit service, improved bus stops, complete sidewalks and safer pedestrian crossings. These types of improvements always scored in the top percentile of improvements residents desired for the corridor and established a strong desire for efficient transit connections to the surrounding neighborhoods. The community's expression of this vision resulted in a transit first approach for the corridor that continues to shape investments today.

Subsequent planning efforts added to the initial vision with an emphasis on transit-oriented development and affordable housing culminating in the State Street Corridor TOD Plan. Recent engagement efforts including surveys, open houses, community forums and stakeholder meetings gathered information from over 800 participants. Community feedback reinforced the desire for the corridor to grow and support a walkable and transit friendly environment while providing access to a blend of affordable housing. 69% of respondents wanted improved bike, walking and transit amenities while 59% wanted an improved streetscapes and public spaces including street trees, landscaping and public greenspace.

## Partnerships

VRT and the City of Boise have developed extensive community partnerships to enable building out the community's vision. Among these is Energize Our Neighborhoods, a collaborative community organization that partners with local neighborhoods and groups to foster community connections, investments and engagement activities. Partnerships also include those focused on redevelopment and increasing affordable housing such as the State Street URD and local affordable housing non-profits such as NeighborWorks Boise. These partner organizations support and reinforce the community's vision for State Street and are actively engaged in implementing steps, both large and small, to see it come to fruition.