

Action on Goals from the previous goal setting:

Completion of the River City Renaissance Project and Start of Construction on the Hotel – The Skywalk is nearing completion and the hotel has received approval by the USDA for the loan guaranty. The last step prior to construction is announcement of allocation from the USDA for this loan guaranty.

Downtown and nearby areas:

Targeting a small section of blighted area for infill development –The city was invited to a grant application for a neighborhood stabilization grant for \$1 million that would achieve the goal of abating blight in a neighborhood near downtown. This grant will work with several community partners to turn around the neighborhood. Additionally, city staff has met with other communities that have had success in this area to investigate ways to replicate their efforts in Mason City.

Construction of the Riverwalk: The city was able to secure the \$4.5 million Destination Iowa grant to assist in financing the construction of the riverwalk and a steering committee has been formed. Final design will now be completed and construction will begin in 2023.

Investment in Infrastructure:

Highway 122: The city completed a feasibility study and presented to the IDOT commission on the findings and requested funding to be programmed in the 5 year plan. This study addressed all the concerns about the current operation of the highway and frontage roads.

Complete an east side Railroad Under/Overpass feasibility study: The city has completed a feasibility study and identified several options for achieving this goal. None of the options have been pursued due to neighborhood concerns. The council will need to determine whether it wishes to continue with this effort as part of this goalsetting.

Develop a walkability Plan for pedestrians: While the city has made progress on completing current trails goals, an effort of completing a new walkability plan has not made progress. It would probably best to revisit this effort after completion of the Destination Iowa grant due to this project including several new trails and connections of existing trails.

Assess/Fund Technology Needs/upgrades in city buildings: The city is implementing new phone and email systems and has completed several security improvements. New funding provided through general fund to address these smaller improvements as needed. Management continues to evaluate needed improvements and works to update technology in critical security areas.

Boost Blight Enforcement and Remediation Efforts:

Allocate additional resources for demolitions: This funding and staff time has increased. One demolition was performed completely by city staff with city equipment.

Add Staff in Code Enforcement: Code enforcement had a retirement and a new recruitment. The City Administrator is still reviewing the best way to add resources and staff to achieve increased, effective enforcement.

Continue Collaborative efforts with Vision North Iowa: The city joined with the county and Clear Lake to complete a Regional Comprehensive Plan that will further the efforts of the Vision North Iowa plan and will develop stronger regional ties between the jurisdictions. Additionally, marketing efforts and collaboration with workforce recruitment continues to be a focus of VNI leadership.