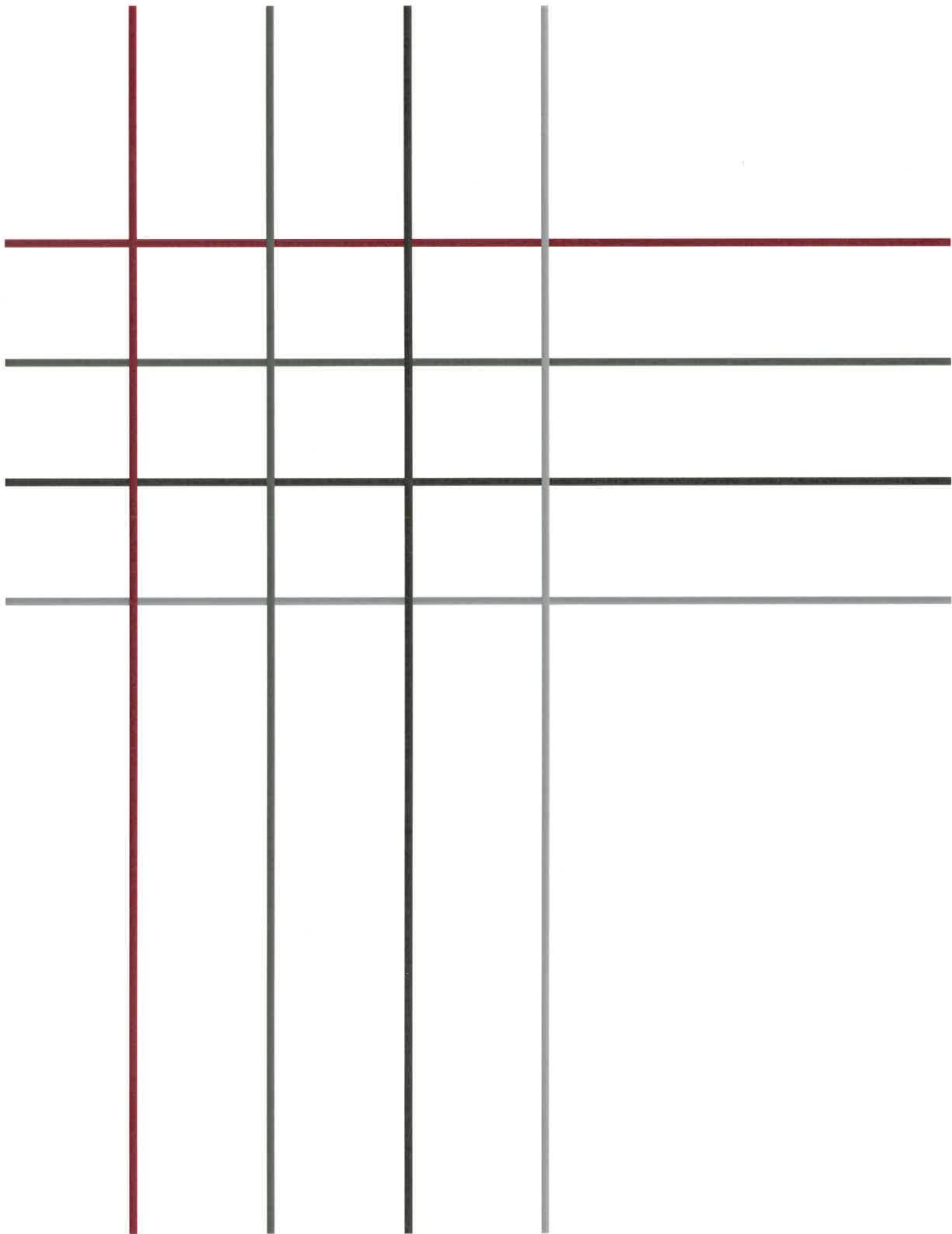




# **EAST DUPONT AVE.**

SAFETY AND MOBILITY PLAN



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**EAST DUPONT AVE. |**  
SAFETY AND MOBILITY PLAN

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS








JUNE 2025

COMMUNITY  
SOLUTIONS  
GROUP

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WELCOME  
TO  
THE TOWN OF  
BELLE  
EST 1958

SPEED  
LIMIT  
35



# INTRODUCTION



# INTRODUCTION

## PLAN ORGANIZATION

### INTRODUCTION

Belle, a town in Kanawha County, West Virginia, nestled along the Kanawha River, is home to 1,171 residents (2020 census). Incorporated in 1958 and named after an early postmaster, Belle Reynolds, the town's history includes the Samuel Shrewsbury Sr. House, a site on the National Register of Historic Places.

Despite these challenges, Belle possesses significant potential for revitalization. Focusing on improvements to public spaces, strategic land banking, and securing funding for commercial and public realm upgrades can stimulate the local economy. This could lead to job creation in sectors like hospitality, retail, and outdoor recreation, boosting visitor spending and generating tax revenue. Entrepreneurs could capitalize on these opportunities by establishing businesses catering to visitors, such as bed and breakfasts, outdoor gear rentals, or local eateries, diversifying the local economy and providing residents with new income streams.

Furthermore, preserving Belle's cultural heritage can instill a sense of community pride and offer educational opportunities for both residents and visitors. Participation in conservation projects, volunteer programs, and citizen science initiatives can foster environmental stewardship and promote sustainable practices.

Ultimately, a focus on these areas can bring economic growth, create jobs, support small business development, preserve cultural heritage, offer educational opportunities, promote conservation, and enhance the overall quality of life in Belle.

Belle's Town Hall serves as a central hub for community life, hosting a variety of events throughout the year. Bingo nights, council meetings, music festivals, and open gym sessions bring residents together, fostering a strong sense of community and providing opportunities for social interaction and engagement. This vibrant atmosphere makes the Town Hall a focal point, enhancing the town's close-knit and welcoming spirit.



Figure 1. Birds Eye View of Belle, West Virginia. (Source: Greg Cronier Aerial Photography)

# INTRODUCTION

## PLAN ORGANIZATION

### PRINCIPLES + OBJECTIVES

As we look to the future of Belle, it is essential to foster community engagement, enhance quality of life, and promote sustainability. Our vision is to create vibrant and inclusive spaces that invite residents and visitors to connect, relax, and enjoy the town's unique character. By focusing on beautification, accessibility, and local commerce, we aim to strengthen community bonds and celebrate Belle's identity. Additionally, embracing eco-friendly practices will help protect our natural resources for future generations while promoting healthier lifestyles. These are our principles:

**Revitalizing Public Spaces:** Transform Belle's public areas into vibrant community hubs. Benches, playgrounds, and walking trails invite outdoor activity and social connection, creating inviting spaces for residents and visitors to relax, exercise, and enjoy nature.

**Pedestrian-Friendly Infrastructure:** Enhance accessibility and safety by developing pedestrian-friendly infrastructure. Sidewalks, bike lanes, and pedestrian crossings encourage walking and cycling, reducing traffic congestion and promoting healthier lifestyles. These improvements will connect neighborhoods and make it easier to explore the town.

**Historic Preservation:** Showcase Belle's rich history by restoring and maintaining landmarks like the Samuel Shrewsbury Sr. House. These preserved sites will attract tourists and educate residents about the town's heritage. Informational plaques and guided tours offer insights into Belle's past, fostering community pride.

**Beautification Projects:** Elevate Belle's aesthetic appeal with impactful beautification projects. Landscaping, thoughtfully selected public art (murals, sculptures), and improved street lighting create a more vibrant and welcoming environment. Seasonal decorations and flower beds add charm and color throughout the year.

**Commercial Development:** Diversify Belle's economy by encouraging local businesses. Support cafes, boutiques, and artisanal shops through grants and incentives to stimulate economic activity and create jobs. A thriving commercial sector offers spaces for social interaction and local commerce.

**Community Events and Festivals:** Strengthen community bonds and attract visitors by utilizing Belle's Town Hall for regular events. Music festivals, farmers' markets featuring locally grown produce, and cultural celebrations showcase local talent and products, providing entertainment and fostering a sense of unity.

**Environmental Sustainability:** Promote sustainability and environmental stewardship through green initiatives. Implement recycling programs, promote energy-efficient buildings, and establish community gardens growing herbs and vegetables. These eco-friendly practices will educate residents about protecting the environment and contribute to a healthier, more sustainable community.



Figure 1.2: Samuel Shrewsbury Sr. House. Source: Wikipedia/Matt

# INTRODUCTION

## STUDY AREA

### LOCATION

Nestled along the Kanawha River, Belle, West Virginia, offers a unique blend of small-town charm and convenient access to urban amenities. Located approximately 12 miles east of Charleston, the state capital, Belle provides a tranquil escape from the city's hustle and bustle while remaining easily accessible for those seeking its resources and attractions. This strategic location allows residents and visitors to enjoy the natural beauty of West Virginia and the Kanawha Valley, while still benefiting from the proximity to Charleston's cultural, economic, and entertainment opportunities.

East Dupont Avenue, designated as County Route 60/12, serves as a vital artery within Belle. It offers a charming experience for those driving for leisure, visiting local spots, or simply enjoying the riverside views. The avenue features one 11-foot travel lane in each direction, facilitating smooth traffic flow. The north side of the avenue is characterized by a consistent 10-foot wide asphalt shoulder, providing ample parking space.

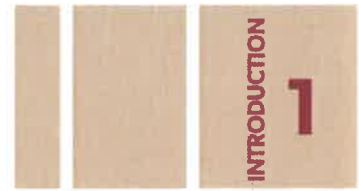
In contrast, the south side of East Dupont Avenue presents a more varied landscape. Here, a mix of asphalt and gravel shoulders can be found in front of storefronts, alongside marked parking areas, business driveways, and sections of sidewalk. However, these sidewalks are inconsistent and generally lack ADA-compliant features, highlighting a potential area for improvement. The posted speed limit along East Dupont Avenue through Belle is 35 mph, reflecting a balance between pedestrian safety and efficient traffic movement within the community.



Figure 1. Location - Municipal Belle, West Virginia

# INTRODUCTION

## PLANNING PROCESS



### PROCESS

**Review and Analysis:** This initial phase involved a comprehensive examination of existing conditions, data collection, and identification of key issues. We analyzed current infrastructure, traffic patterns, and community needs to establish a solid foundation for the project, setting clear objectives.

**Public Engagement:** Engaging with the community was vital for the project's success. We conducted public meetings, surveys, and workshops to gather input from residents, stakeholders, and local businesses. Their feedback shaped the design and ensured alignment with community needs and preferences.

**Mobility Study:** The mobility study focused on evaluating transportation options and improving connectivity. We assessed various modes of transportation, including pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular traffic, to develop solutions that enhanced mobility and accessibility. This phase included modeling traffic scenarios and exploring innovative transportation approaches.

**Implementation Study:** The final phase involved detailed planning for project execution. We developed timelines, budget estimates, and resource allocation plans to ensure feasibility and sustainability. This phase also included strategies for monitoring and evaluating the project's progress post-implementation.

### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Public engagement was vital to the East Dupont Avenue revitalization project. A town hall meeting at Belle Town Hall attracted around 20 residents eager to share their perspectives and shape the future of their town. This gathering was crucial for identifying community needs and ensuring the project aligns with the vision of Belle's residents.

During the town hall meeting, residents expressed a strong desire to reduce reliance on neighboring towns for basic needs. Frustration over limited local options forced them to drive elsewhere for groceries and dining. They envisioned East Dupont Avenue as

a self-sufficient hub with essential services to keep money within Belle. Concerns about the impending closure of the local school and lack of park space further emphasized the need for revitalization efforts to enhance quality of life and create a more sustainable environment for residents.

Another significant topic was the appearance of building fronts along East Dupont Avenue. Attendees emphasized the importance of visually appealing storefronts for creating an inviting atmosphere and attracting customers. Concerns were raised about encouraging building owners to invest in renovations. Suggestions included offering incentives or design assistance to motivate their participation in the revitalization efforts.

Additionally, the topic of lighting emerged as a crucial element for the project. Participants emphasized the need for pedestrian-focused lighting that enhances safety and visibility for walkers while still accommodating vehicle traffic. This dual-purpose lighting would not only improve the overall ambiance of East Dupont Avenue but also encourage more foot traffic, making the area more inviting for residents and visitors alike.

The insights gained from this initial public engagement session did serve as a cornerstone for the subsequent phases of the East Dupont Avenue revitalization project. The concerns voiced regarding entertainment, dining, building aesthetics, and lighting did directly inform the project's design and implementation, ensuring that the final outcome reflects the community's aspirations and creates a more vibrant, engaging, and prosperous future for Belle. Continued dialogue and collaboration with residents and stakeholders will be essential throughout the project's lifecycle to maintain alignment and foster a sense of shared ownership.



IN MEMORY OF  
HILDRED (PUG) HURST



# 2 MASTER PLAN



### ANALYSIS

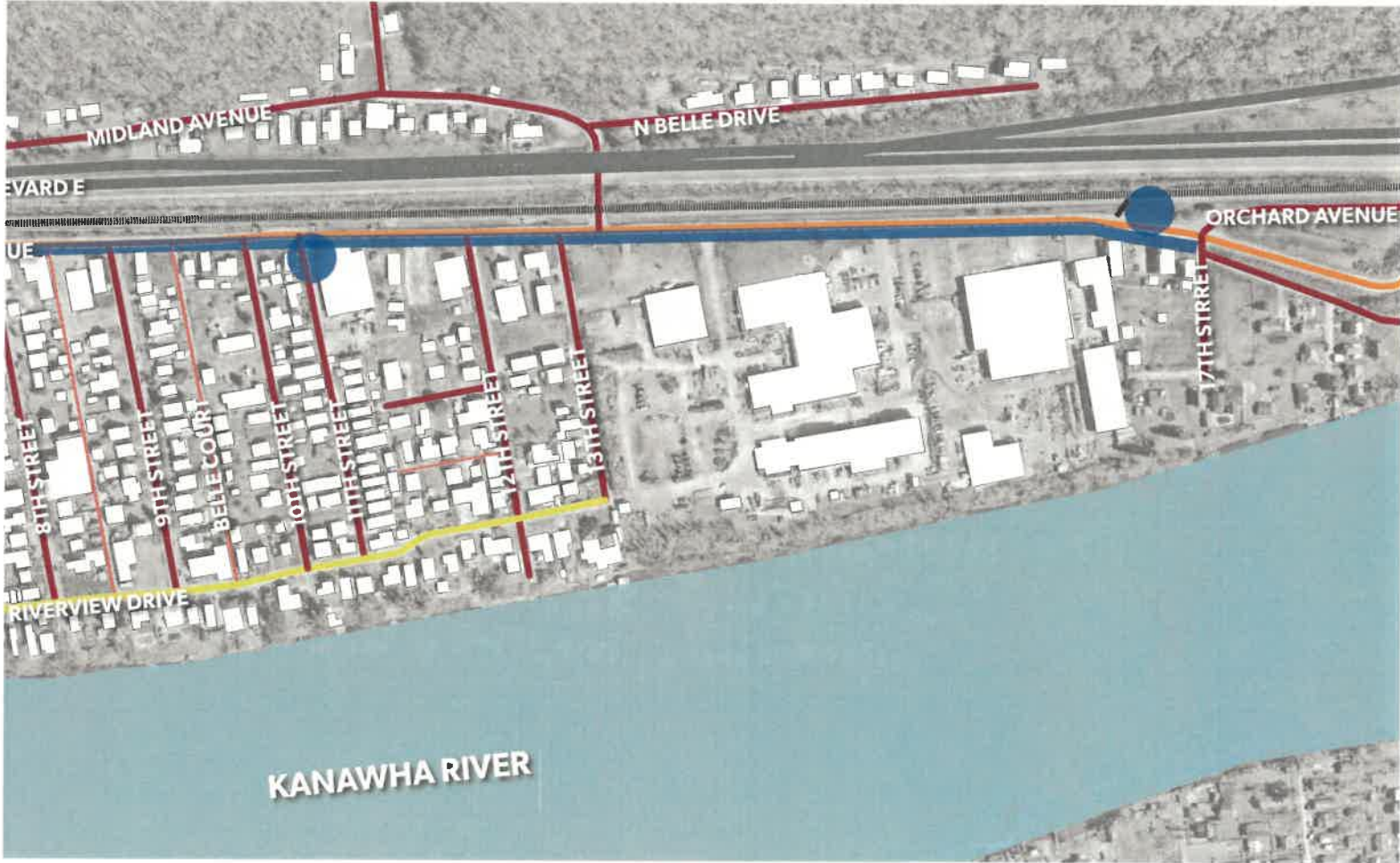
Belle, West Virginia, showcases a unique community character shaped by its historical landmarks and infrastructure. This map highlights key areas and roadway functions, illustrating how different routes connect essential services and landmarks. The Samuel Shrewsbury Sr. House reflects the town’s architectural heritage, while East Dupont Avenue serves as a vital route for commerce.

The Town Hall acts as the civic heart of Belle, complemented by a nearby daycare center that underscores the town’s commitment to families. The impending closure of Belle Elementary School presents an opportunity to repurpose the building,

ensuring it continues to serve the community. Additionally, the railroad’s historical significance highlights its role in facilitating trade and development. Analyzing these elements reveals how Belle’s landmarks and infrastructure contribute to its identity and future growth.

# MASTER PLAN

## SITE ANALYSIS



### LEGEND

- PROPOSED KEY IMPROVEMENT AREAS
- PROPOSED SIDEWALK LOCATIONS
- ⋯ RAILROAD
- RESIDENTIAL ROADS (NO SIDEWALKS)
- RESIDENTIAL ROADS (LESS TRAFFIC)
- MAIN ACCESS ROADS (MULTI-TRANSIT)
- ACCESS ROAD W/ PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
- ⋯ PEDESTRIAN PATHS

# MASTER PLAN SITE ANALYSIS



## ANALYSIS

East Dupont Ave experiences an Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) of 2,446 vehicles, while the major highway carries 9,323 vehicles daily. This traffic volume information provides context for understanding potential traffic patterns and road usage. To enhance pedestrian safety, a review of both roads is needed to identify locations where additional pedestrian crossings may be beneficial.

Analysis of accident data revealed a trend of minor incidents, primarily involving vehicle damage, with most occurring on the major highway and fewer on East Dupont Avenue. The highest recorded level in the KABCO system was a B, indicating non-incapacitating

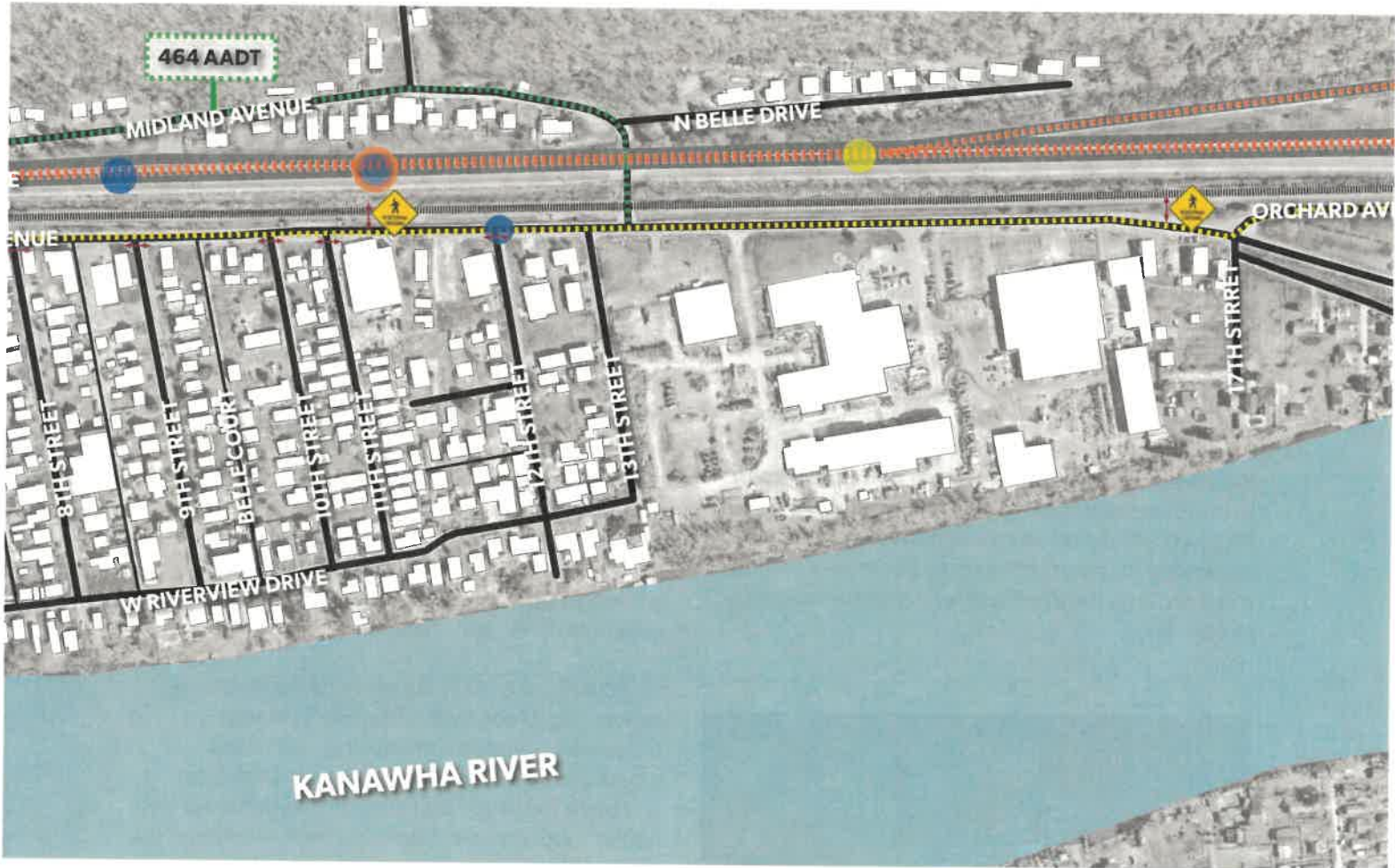
injuries. This prevalence of minor accidents suggests a lower incidence of serious injuries. To enhance pedestrian safety, a review of both roads is needed to identify potential locations for additional pedestrian crossings.

## KABCO System (Crash Data)







- K** Killed
- A** Incapacitating Injury
- B** Non-Incapacitating Injury
- C** Possible Injury
- D** Property Damage / No Injury

# MASTER PLAN

## SITE ANALYSIS



### LEGEND

-  CRASH DATA
-  4,999-50,000 VEHICLES
-  999-4,999 VEHICLES
-  49-499 VEHICLES
-  PROPOSED CROSSINGS
-  ROADS

# MASTER PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

## ACCESSIBILITY

Improving the accessibility of streetscapes is a vital component of the recommended overall enhancements for the Town of Belle. Key features like accessible curb ramps, truncated domes, detectable warning surfaces, and high-visibility crosswalks are essential for creating a safe and inclusive environment for pedestrians, including those with disabilities. The current conditions in the district include a mix of accessible curb ramps, varying sidewalk conditions, and areas without sidewalks, affecting overall pedestrian accessibility. Additionally, Belle faces challenges in terms of terrain when it comes to implementing accessible streetscapes.

To enhance safety, accessibility improvements must be prioritized. Truncated domes should be installed at the edges of curb ramps and other pedestrian areas to provide tactile cues for visually impaired individuals. High-visibility crosswalks make pedestrians more noticeable to drivers, ensuring a safer environment for those crossing the street and for motorists navigating intersections.



Example of an accessibility constraint present in Belle

Promoting independence is another important aspect of accessible streetscape design. Features like accessible ramps empower individuals with disabilities to navigate sidewalks and crosswalks independently, reducing their reliance on assistance. This increased mobility and autonomy contribute to overall quality of life.

Improving accessibility benefits not only people with disabilities but also older adults, parents with strollers, and individuals carrying heavy items. A more accessible streetscape ensures that everyone can move around with ease, fostering greater participation in community life.

## INTERSECTIONS

Belle prioritizes pedestrian safety, improving public spaces for residents and visitors, though intersection designs often favor vehicles. Using locally sourced materials in intersection upgrades can integrate pedestrian-friendly features into the streetscape, ensuring that improvements align with the town's unique aesthetic and character.

When curb extensions are not feasible, alternative designs could enhance safety. High-contrast crosswalks, adjusted signal timing, and raised crosswalks could improve visibility, ease of crossing, and traffic calming. Clear signage and better lighting further support pedestrian movement. Implementing these strategies enhances pedestrian safety and accessibility, creating a welcoming, walkable environment for all.

## BIKE INFRASTRUCTURE

The development of bike infrastructure in a community can significantly enhance the quality of life and tourism, making it a crucial element in future streetscape planning. To fully unlock its potential, the Town needs to establish a comprehensive system that ensures seamless connectivity of cycle lanes and paths throughout the community.

In the downtown area, it is feasible to incorporate sharrows, which allow bicycles and vehicles to share the roadway. By optimizing lane widths and

# MASTER PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

reorganizing street parking, shared lanes can be effectively designated within the existing roadway network, ensuring both cyclists and drivers can safely coexist. The implementation of bike infrastructure brings numerous benefits that can elevate residents' quality of life and attract tourism:

**Improved mobility and accessibility:** Bike infrastructure offers an alternative mode of transportation, allowing residents to safely and efficiently navigate the community. This encourages active lifestyles, reduces traffic congestion, and improves access to various destinations.

**Health and well-being:** Promoting cycling as a form of transportation fosters physical activity and public health. Regular cycling helps combat sedentary behavior, prevent chronic illnesses, and improve overall well-being.

**Environmental sustainability:** Encouraging cycling can reduce carbon emissions and air pollution generated by motor vehicles, contributing to a cleaner, greener environment and advancing sustainability goals.

**Tourism and economic growth:** Bike-friendly communities often draw tourists looking for cycling experiences. By developing a robust bike infrastructure network, Belle can position itself as a destination for cycling enthusiasts, which could stimulate local businesses like bike rentals, cafes, and accommodations.

**Community engagement and social cohesion:** Bike infrastructure enhances opportunities for community interactions and social connections. It creates spaces where people can meet, cycle together, and participate in community events, fostering a stronger sense of belonging and unity.

By incorporating bike infrastructure into streetscape planning, the Town of Belle can cultivate a more vibrant, active, and livable community. This not only improves residents' quality of life but also appeals to visitors who value and seek bike-friendly environments. The right-sizing of lane widths and restructuring of street parking further support the integration of dedicated bike lanes, advancing cycling as a safe and accessible transportation option.



Figure 2.1 Example of residential intersection design. (Source: NACTD)

## PUBLIC ART

Public art has a transformative impact on shaping the cultural and aesthetic identity of a city or community. In Belle, ongoing efforts to enhance public art initiatives are crucial. Partnering with local and regional artists can lead to beautiful expressions of art that resonate with the community's values and identity. Public art has the potential to unify the community through several dimensions:

**Beautification:** Public art enhances the visual appeal of public spaces by introducing beauty and vibrant colors, uplifting the aesthetic quality of the town. Older buildings, for example, can be infused with character through murals, sculptures, or other art installations that reflect the town's history and morals. This not only preserves these structures but also gives them new life and meaning.

**Cultural Expression:** Public art celebrates the unique culture, history, and values of a community, fostering a sense of place and identity for residents and visitors. Incorporating themes that align with Belle's morals and heritage can deepen this connection.

**Community Engagement:** By involving residents in the creation and appreciation of art, public art fosters community participation, dialogue, and a sense of collective ownership over shared spaces.

**Education:** Public art serves as an educational tool, helping individuals understand the role of creativity in society. Art installations can provide insights into cultural or historical narratives, promoting learning and appreciation.

**Economic Benefits:** A strong presence of public art can contribute to the local economy by attracting visitors, increasing property values, and generating opportunities for artists and businesses. This benefit extends to practical uses, such as integrating art into the town's bus transit systems. Functional yet artistic elements, like creatively designed bus stops or vehicle wraps, can reflect Belle's identity while improving the commuting experience.

**Social Commentary:** Public art can also serve as a medium for addressing important societal issues, sparking conversation and encouraging meaningful change within the community.

Enhancing the presence of public art in Belle, such as revitalizing older buildings through artistic interventions, can make the town a distinctive destination. It cultivates pride, fosters identity, and enriches the cultural and social fabric of the community. By working closely with artists to define the themes and scope of projects, Belle can ensure that public art reflects the shared values and aspirations of its residents.

Through continued collaboration and exploration of artistic ideas, Belle can create an environment that celebrates creativity, strengthens community bonds, and inspires both locals and visitors. Public art serves as a bridge between the past and present, infusing spaces with meaning, character, and beauty while honoring the morals and heritage of the community.



Belle's public art on the transit stop shelters

# MASTER PLAN CONCEPTS



Figure 2.2 (Top Image): Existing east side of Fall's Town Hall

Figure 2.3 (Bottom Image): Proposed east side of Fall's Town Hall



### TOWN HALL

In the redesign of Belle's Town Hall, our goal is to enhance the seating areas around the parking lot, creating a more inviting atmosphere. We considered the building's angle, which tapers into the greenspace, and utilized symmetry to maximize space for native planting, fostering biodiversity.

We focused on improving the buffer between pedestrian zones and the railroad to enhance safety and accessibility. This clear separation helps pedestrians feel secure while navigating the space.

To optimize parking, we proposed a shift to 60-degree angle spaces, maintaining the current number of spots while providing more room for planting and seating areas.

For accessibility, the sidewalk remains level with the ground plane, using varied textures to indicate a walking path and limiting the number of crosswalks. This encourages pedestrian traffic to focus on the proposed crossing at the town hall.

The redesign includes updates to the brickwork, improved lighting with flower baskets and signage, and new site furnishings. These elements contribute to a vibrant environment, making Belle's Town Hall a focal point for community engagement.

### RESIDENTIAL

Despite existing limitations, the future of communities like Belle, WV, holds immense potential for transformative growth. By proactively addressing challenges such as limited sidewalks and inadequate pedestrian lighting, we can enhance the town's walkability and connectivity. Planned sidewalks within the right-of-ways will ensure they do not encroach on private property.

#### ENHANCING CONNECTIVITY

A well-connected neighborhood enhances accessibility while respecting existing structures. This project prioritizes seamless links between new and existing pathways, ensuring a natural flow through the community. Careful layout design will avoid disruptions to fence lines, preserving privacy and property lines.

Driveways can be thoughtfully incorporated, with drive aprons installed as needed, creating smooth transitions between pedestrian and vehicle spaces for easy access to homes.

#### CREATING A VIBRANT AND INVITING MAIN STREET

A walkable main street fosters a stronger community by encouraging foot traffic and supporting local businesses. To make the area more inviting, lighting installations can enhance visibility, safety, and ambiance—ensuring the street remains welcoming both day and night. Thoughtful lighting design can create a warm, engaging atmosphere, making strolls more enjoyable.

Adding flower baskets along sidewalks could bring charm and vibrancy, making the streetscape visually appealing and inviting. These colorful elements create a pleasant experience for pedestrians, encouraging them to spend more time outdoors, explore local shops, and engage with neighbors. Together, these enhancements can transform the main street into a lively and attractive gathering space.

#### BUILDING A THRIVING, CONNECTED COMMUNITY

Walkable communities foster a sense of togetherness, health, and sustainability. By prioritizing accessibility, safety, and aesthetics, this initiative strengthens the bonds between residents, businesses, and shared spaces. Encouraging walking reduces car dependency, leading to a more eco-friendly environment and healthier lifestyles.

With improved connectivity, vibrant sidewalks, and inviting public spaces, the neighborhood can become more than just a collection of houses—it becomes a thriving, interconnected community. These enhancements could create lasting benefits, making everyday life more enjoyable while fostering a deeper connection among residents.

# MASTER PLAN CONCEPT



Figure 2.4. Example of existing residential fencing



Figure 2.5. Example of proposed design for residential areas

## COMMERCIAL STREETSCAPE

Creating vibrant and connected communities requires a focus on enhancing pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure, fostering social interaction, and promoting sustainable mobility. By prioritizing improvements to commercial areas, towns can create welcoming, functional spaces that benefit residents, businesses, and visitors alike. This holistic approach not only improves infrastructure but also fosters a sense of community, sustainability, and local pride, shaping an active, connected, and thriving urban space.

### CONNECTING NEIGHBORHOODS

Beyond residential areas, enhancing pedestrian-friendly infrastructure in front of commercial buildings strengthens the connection between businesses and the community. These improvements create welcoming, functional spaces where people can gather, interact, and enjoy their surroundings.

Strategically placed seating encourages social interaction and provides resting spots for shoppers, workers, and visitors. Whether it's benches for a quick break or casual seating arrangements for conversation, these additions make the streetscape more inviting. Comfortable and accessible seating helps transform sidewalks into engaging spaces, increasing the time people spend in commercial areas, which in turn supports local businesses.

### ENHANCING MAIN STREET

A well-balanced streetscape accommodates both pedestrians and cyclists, creating a harmonious urban environment. Encouraging alternative forms of transportation like biking not only reduces dependence on cars but also fosters a healthier lifestyle. Well-placed bike racks provide convenience for riders while ensuring sidewalks remain uncluttered and accessible for pedestrians. Lighting enhancements will also contribute to safety and ambiance, ensuring commercial areas remain vibrant and welcoming into the evening. Paired with well-maintained walkways, seating, and greenery, these elements create an inviting, functional space that benefits businesses, visitors, and residents alike.

## BUILDING COMMUNITY

A walkable, thoughtfully designed commercial area contributes to economic activity by attracting more visitors and encouraging people to stay longer. Providing comfortable public spaces enhances the overall experience, making commercial streets feel lively and engaging. Residents, workers, and visitors alike benefit from a more enjoyable, accessible, and vibrant environment. By prioritizing these enhancements, the project not only improves infrastructure but fosters a sense of community, sustainability, and local pride. These improvements help shape an active, connected, and thriving urban space that supports both residents and businesses.

# MASTER PLAN CONCEPT



Figure 2.6. Existing conditions of Inova commercial area.



Figure 2.7. Concept design of sidewalk improvements.

# MASTER PLAN CONCEPT

## PLAN KEY

- 1 BELLE TOWN HALL
  - 2 REDESIGNED PARKING
  - 3 PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS
  - 4 MEMORIAL BENCH REDESIGN
  - 5 SIDEWALK ADDITIONS
  - 6 EAST DUPONT AVE.
  - 7 RAILROAD
  - 8 NEW BRICK ENTRY
  - 9 BUS TRANSIT STOP
- VIEW

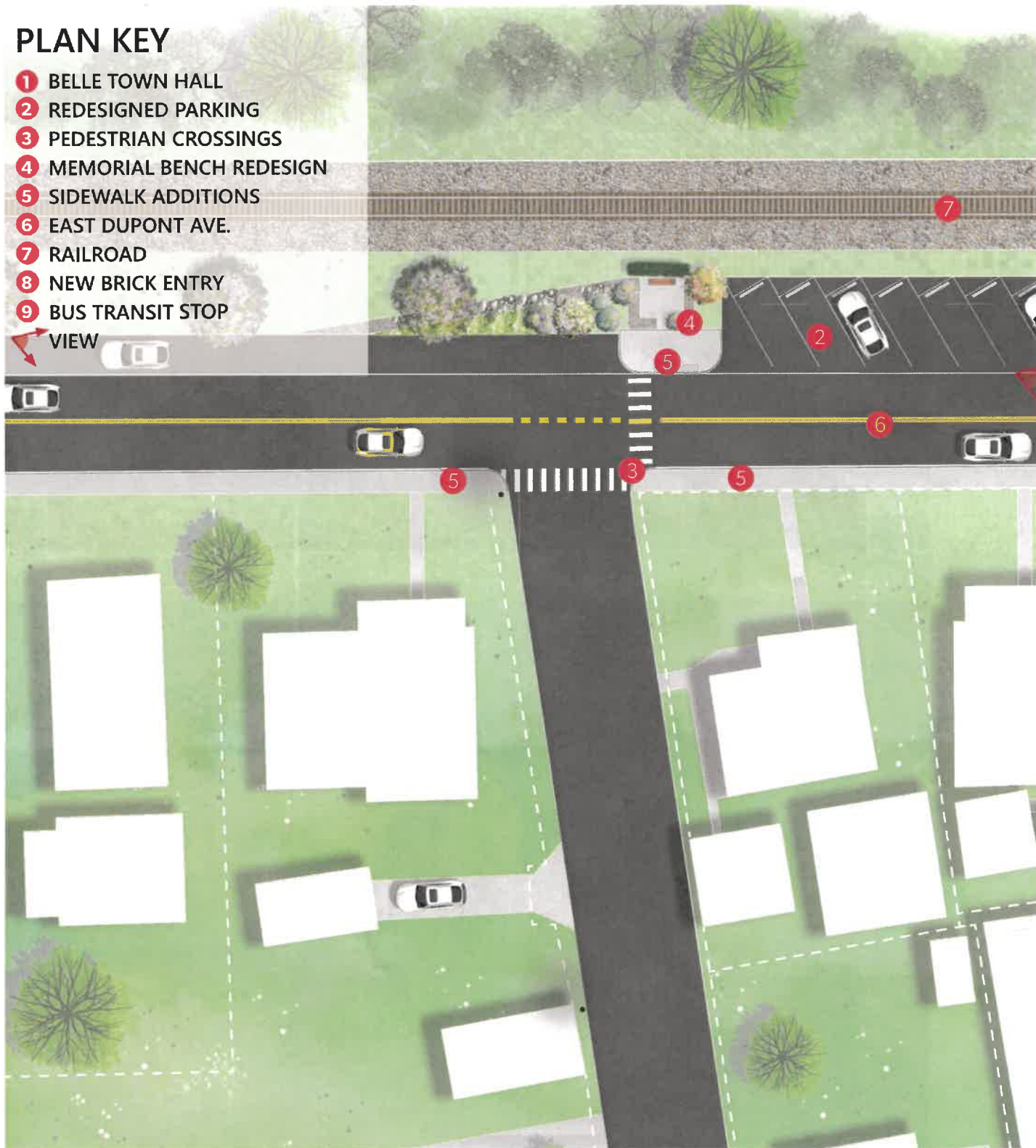
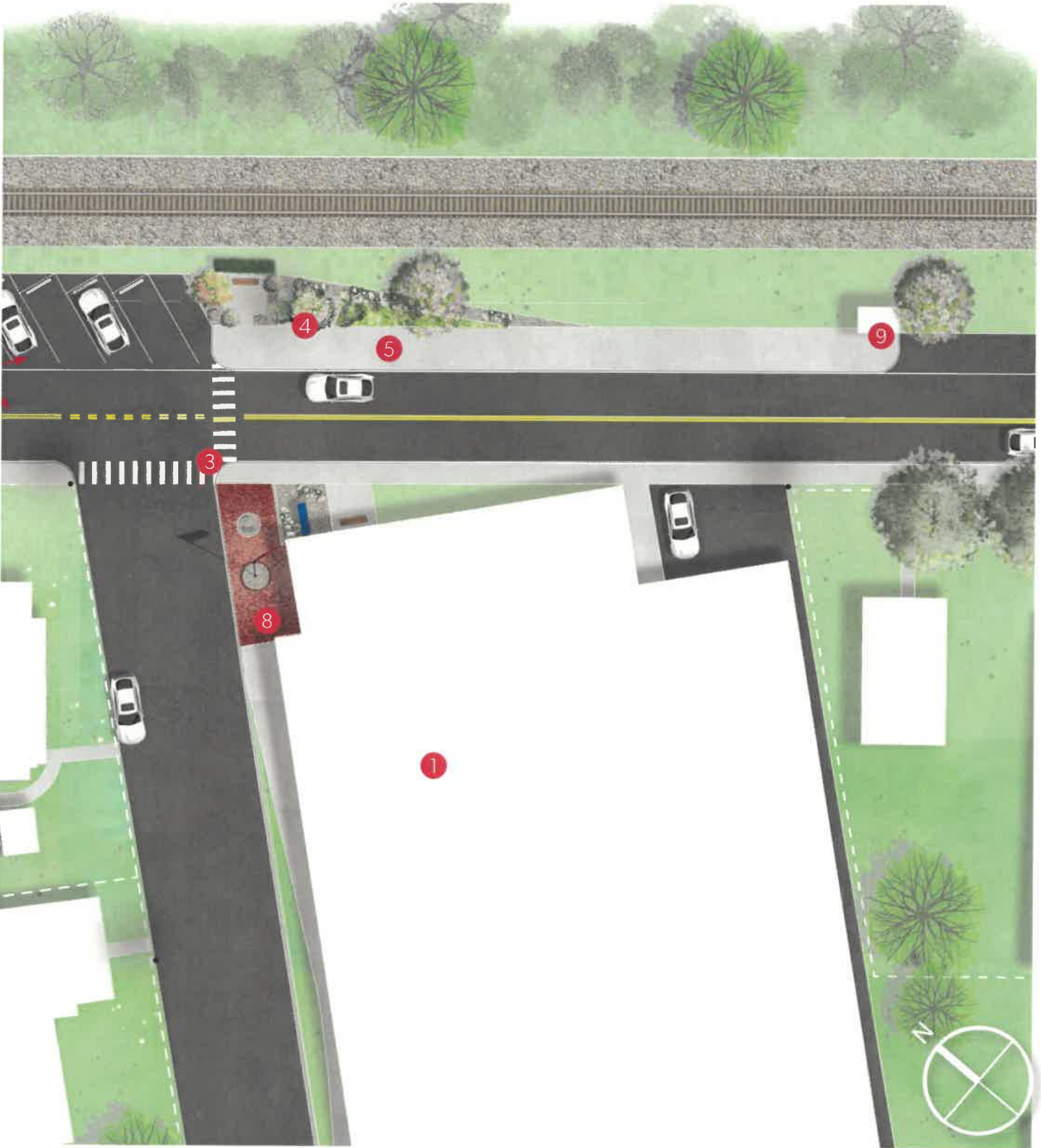


Figure 3.6 - Concept plan for potential design for Belle.

# MASTER PLAN CONCEPT







# 3 TOWN IDENTITY

A town's identity can be profoundly influenced by the consistent use of materials in its streetscape design. By choosing a distinctive palette that reflects the town's history, culture, and values, a visual language can be created that resonates with both residents and visitors. This language can convey the town's unique character, from its industrial heritage to its vibrant culture, setting it apart from other locations. Consistently applying this language across the town's streets and public spaces can establish a cohesive and recognizable visual identity, reinforcing the sense of place, and making it a more attractive and memorable destination.

## HARDSCAPE

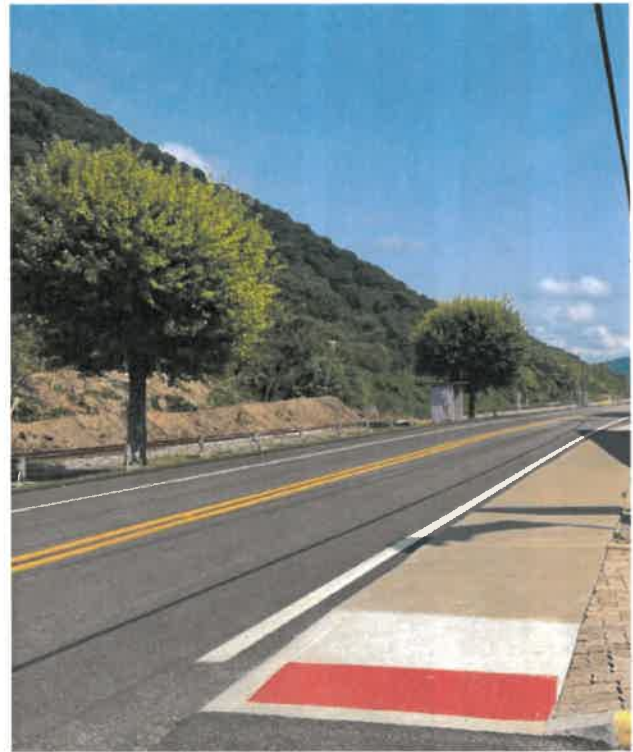
Hardscape and ground plane materials are essential in streetscape design, serving both practical and visual purposes. These materials form the foundation of the urban environment and significantly impact the overall look, feel, and functionality of the streetscape.

From a practical standpoint, hardscape materials are selected for their durability, functionality, and ease of maintenance. They must withstand heavy traffic, varying weather conditions, and daily wear and tear. Common materials like concrete, asphalt, and pavers are used for sidewalks, roadways, and plazas due to their stability and longevity. These materials provide a solid and reliable surface for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles, ensuring safe and efficient movement throughout the town.

Beyond practical considerations, hardscape materials also enhance the visual aesthetics of the streetscape. The choice of materials can significantly influence the overall ambiance and character of the environment.

### CONCRETE

Concrete pavement dominates the pedestrian areas within the existing streetscape of the Town of Belle. This material choice brings numerous benefits to the urban environment. Concrete's inherent durability and strength make it a reliable and long-lasting surface capable of withstanding the daily demands of pedestrian traffic, ensuring the safety and comfort of those navigating the town streets.



*Newly repaired concrete sidewalks in the Town of Belle.*

The use of concrete pavement offers practical advantages for the Town of Belle. Its low maintenance requirements reduce the need for frequent repairs and upkeep, allowing the town to allocate resources more efficiently towards other infrastructure projects and community development initiatives. The solid and consistent nature of concrete also provides a stable and predictable surface for pedestrians, accommodating individuals of all ages and abilities as they move throughout the town. Given the practicality and durability of the material, concrete should continue to be utilized as the primary material for pedestrian walkways.

When a more visually interesting concrete walkway is desired, methods such as scoring patterns or exposed aggregate can be employed. Scoring patterns involve creating deliberate lines or decorative designs on the concrete surface. This can be achieved by using specialized tools or saws to cut shallow grooves into the concrete. By incorporating patterns such as geometric shapes or artistic motifs, the otherwise plain concrete surface is transformed into a visually

# TOWN IDENTITY MATERIALS

captivating element of the streetscape. Scoring patterns not only enhance the aesthetic appeal but can also serve practical purposes such as improving traction and delineating pedestrian pathways.



Example of exposed aggregate concrete

Exposed aggregate finishes offer a unique and textured look to concrete walks. This technique involves removing the top layer of concrete to expose the embedded aggregate materials, such as pebbles, stones, or colored glass chips. The exposed aggregates create a visually interesting surface that adds depth and character to the walkway. The choice of aggregate materials allows for customization, enabling the creation of various color schemes and textures that can harmonize with the surrounding environment. Exposed aggregate finishes not only offer visual appeal but also provide a tactile experience for pedestrians, enhancing their interaction with the streetscape.

## TRUNCATED DOMES AND CROSSINGS

Another important element in enhancing the hardscape materials of the streetscape is the incorporation of truncated domes, also known as detectable warning surfaces. These features provide vital cues for visually impaired individuals, alerting them to potential conflicts with pedestrians and vehicles, particularly at crosswalks.

For optimal functionality and maintenance, composite cast-in-place panels are often preferred for truncated domes due to their durability. They come in various

colors, allowing for customization that aligns with the streetscape's aesthetic. In the Town of Belle, using brick red truncated domes would provide the necessary contrast for visibility while harmonizing with existing brick accents. Regardless of the final color, it is essential that these domes adhere to ADA guidelines by offering clear visual contrast with surrounding materials.

Additionally, effective crossing signage is crucial for pedestrian safety. Clear and visible signage at crosswalks can guide both pedestrians and drivers, enhancing awareness and reducing the likelihood of accidents. By combining truncated domes with well-placed crossing signs, the streetscape can create a safer and more accessible environment for all users.



Figure 31. Example of pedestrian crossing sign. (Source: Author)

## BRICK PAVERS

Historically, brick pavers have been widely used in the Town of Belle, contributing unique character and charm through its intact original sidewalks. While these brick paver sidewalks require more maintenance than modern materials like concrete and asphalt, their preservation enhances the town's visual appeal and distinct identity. Refurbishing the brick sidewalks at Town Hall would restore a key aspect of the town's aesthetic and improve the visual appeal of this central location.

# TOWN IDENTITY MATERIALS

Brick pavers can also serve as valuable accent materials in specific areas of the streetscape, reinforcing the connection between the town’s historical heritage and its future. Although they may not be suitable for every part of the streetscape, they can enhance walks and edges, providing a cohesive and timeless aesthetic that honors Belle’s history while embracing its evolving vision.

Future projects should consider brick paver accents, such as using them as a banding material on the inside edge of concrete curbs. This provides a positive aesthetic and a visual break between pedestrian and vehicular spaces. Additionally, pavers at crosswalk locations can signal to motorists that they are entering an area where pedestrians may be present.

While incorporating brick pavers is optional, their potential to enhance the streetscape should not be overlooked. Modern installation methods, such as

setting the pavers on a concrete and mortar or a concrete and bituminous setting bed, can reduce long-term maintenance needs. By thoughtfully integrating brick pavers in select areas, the Town of Belle can create a functional streetscape that balances historical charm with contemporary requirements.



Existing brick at Town Hall in Belle, VA of Virginia



Possible herringbone brick pattern for Town Hall (Source: iStock by Getty Images)

DESIGN | ORIGINALITY | EXPERTISE

## COLOR PALETTE

safeguarded with our trademark, KEYSHIELD® powder coating, Keystone Ridge Designs' superb products are further enhanced with a lustrous, durable finish that is unparalleled in product protection. KEYSHIELD® is our stamp of armored excellence that is foremost in site furniture finishes.

The KEYSHIELD® process involves cleaning the substrate, phosphating the product in the washing stage, and armoring the product in 7-15 mil thickness of color polyester powder coating. This finish protects each piece of furniture from chipping, cracking and UV damage. The strength, durability and quality of the KEYSHIELD® finish is backed by a three-year warranty.\*\*

### STANDARD KEYSHIELD® COLOR OPTIONS

Black	Dark Grey	Light Grey	White	Dark Blue
Medium Blue	Light Blue	Yellow	Orange	Red
Green	Brown	Dark Green	Light Green	Dark Red

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670 Mincer Road | Butler, PA 16001-1849  
Toll-free: 1-800-294-3200 | Phone: 724-284-1213 | Fax: 724-284-1253  
www.keystoneridge.com

Figure 3.2 Keystone Ridge Designs color palette (Source: Keystone Ridge Designs)

### SITE FURNISHINGS

Site furnishings are essential for enhancing the functionality, comfort, and aesthetics of a streetscape. These elements provide spaces for rest, social interaction, and enjoyment, significantly contributing to the urban environment's overall quality. During the public meeting, residents expressed a desire to incorporate the color blue into the site furnishings, which is highlighted in (Figure 3). Participants can also choose other colors if they prefer.

When selecting and placing site furnishings, it's important to consider factors such as durability, accessibility, maintenance requirements, and adherence to local regulations. Choosing products from reputable manufacturers who offer robust warranties ensures long-term support and reliability. Thoughtfully incorporating these elements can transform a streetscape into a vibrant and inviting space that meets the community's needs while reflecting its unique character and history. Below are some examples of products that could be utilized within the Town of Belle.

#### 1. BENCHES

The Schenley Bench by Keystone Ridge Designs provides a timeless appearance that blends well with any style. The bench is available in 4', 6', and 8' lengths, permitting it to be used in a variety of spaces. It is also offered in a range of colors, protected by a durable polyester powder coat finish.



#### 2. TRASH RECEPTACLES

The Harmony trash receptacle by Keystone Ridge Designs is an attractive and functional option for waste collection. The receptacle can be ordered with a variety of options including lids and branding.



#### 3. BIKE RACKS

The Sonance single loop bike rack by Keystone Ridge Designs is a simple and adaptable solution to bike storage. The rack provides two points of contact for bike security and is available for surface mounting or cast-in-place mounting for new construction.



#### 4. PLANTERS

The Midtown Planter from Keystone Ridge Designs is a durable and stylish site furnishing that adds greenery to urban spaces. Designed for individual or clustered placement, it comes in various colors to brighten environments while complementing surrounding architecture.



# TOWN IDENTITY SITE FURNISHINGS

## SITE FURNISHING PLACEMENT

Proper placement of site furnishings is crucial to a successful streetscape. When positioning elements, care should be taken to maintain a clear throughway for pedestrian travel. Furnishings, vegetation, and lighting should be placed in a designated furnishing zone. If sidewalk space permits, businesses can utilize a frontage zone for outdoor dining or signage. In Downtown Belle, sidewalks vary in width, but many of the main streets have sidewalks between 10 to 12 feet wide, allowing for thoughtful placement of site furnishings without obstructing pedestrian movement. This ample space enables the strategic positioning of benches, planters, and trash receptacles in the furnishing zone to enhance functionality and aesthetic appeal. Additionally, bike racks and streetlights can be placed to ensure safety and convenience for all users. By carefully planning the placement of these elements, the Town of Belle can create a vibrant, accessible, and visually appealing streetscape that meets the needs of its residents and visitors.



Figure 34. Furnishing placement for 10' wide sidewalk

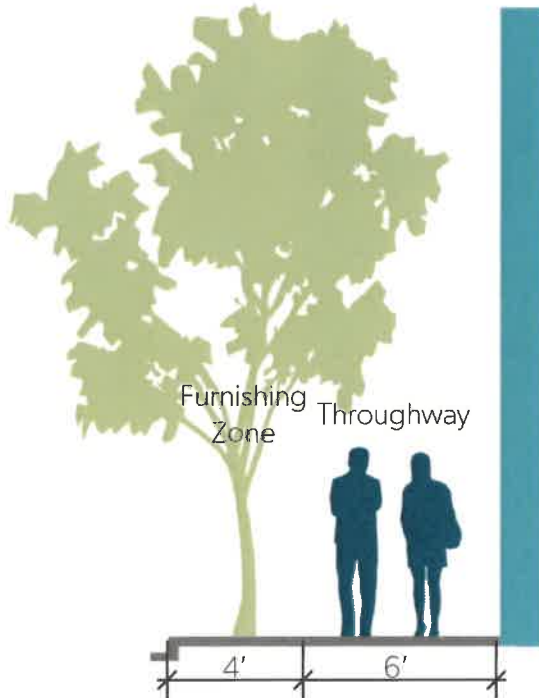


Figure 35. Street tree placement for 10' wide sidewalk



Figure 36. Furnishing placement for 12' wide sidewalk

# TOWN IDENTITY LIGHTING

## LIGHTING

Lighting is a crucial element in urban environments, significantly impacting safety, functionality, and visual appeal. Well-lit streets, pathways, and public areas help deter criminal activities, making residents and visitors feel more secure while navigating the urban landscape. Adequate lighting also allows pedestrians and drivers to clearly see their surroundings, reducing the risk of accidents and promoting safe movement throughout the town, especially during nighttime hours.

Beyond safety, lighting greatly enhances the functionality of urban spaces. Properly illuminated streets and public areas facilitate efficient transportation and navigation, enabling pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists to move with ease and confidence. Illuminated signage, crosswalks, and intersections ensure clear communication and smooth traffic flow, contributing to a well-organized and accessible urban environment.

### EXISTING STREET LIGHTS

In the Town of Belle, various types of light fixtures are currently utilized. Cobra-head style lights mounted on utility poles, provided by the Department of Highways (DOH), illuminate most parts of the town. These cobra-head lights are more geared towards vehicular traffic



Existing cobra-style lighting in Town of Belle

and do not adequately cater to pedestrian needs. To create a more pedestrian-friendly environment, it is essential to consider changes in lighting.

As the Town of Belle progresses with its streetscape improvements, unifying the selection of light fixtures or at least reducing them to a manageable number should be considered. This approach simplifies maintenance and service requirements over time, ensuring consistency and ease of management throughout the area. By adopting a more streamlined approach to fixture selection, the Town of Belle can achieve a cohesive and efficient lighting system that enhances the overall streetscape experience for residents and visitors.

### NEW FIXTURE SELECTION

The existing lighting fixtures should be considered for upgrade to LED type fixtures. These more modern types of fixture are more energy efficient, have a significantly longer life span, and are even more resistant to certain types of damage from their environment. In addition to improved performance, LEDs have the capability of displaying a wide range of color temperatures that can be customized for the application and provide a much better aesthetic appearance. These color temperatures range from a warm yellow (around 2200K) to a light or "cool" blue (around 6000K). In comparison, the existing HPS type



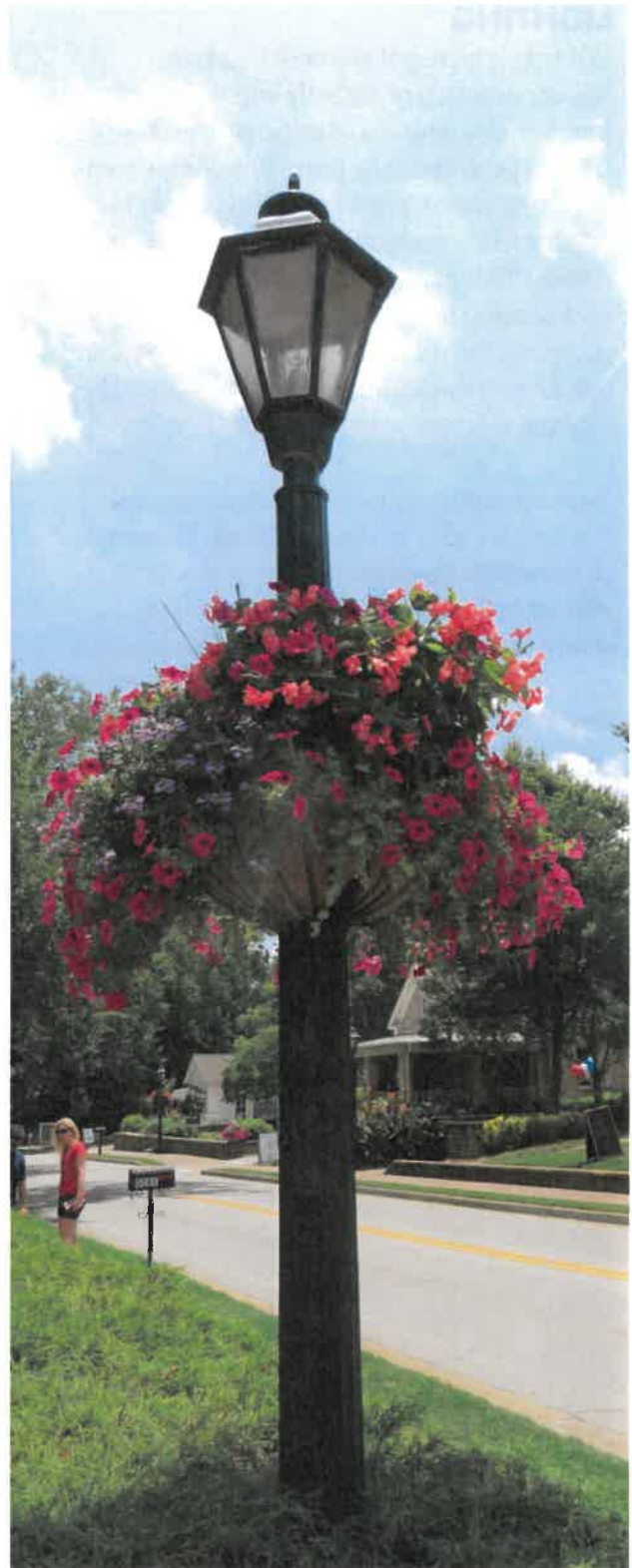
Browley Works lighting that illuminates a utility style light.

# TOWN IDENTITY LIGHTING

fixtures are only capable of displaying a very narrow range of color temperature that is typically a warm yellow color.

The style of the new lighting fixtures should be selected with an effort to harmonize with the surrounding context, including architectural style and historical significance. Selecting the right style can provide a timeless and attractive design that maintains visual appeal and avoids a desire for frequent replacement. In addition to the aesthetic qualities, a proper selection of style can also provide directionality to the emitted light. This will ensure the light is directed toward the roadway and non-motorist facilities, will prevent light pollution to nearby residences, and will preserve the natural darkness of the night sky.

Options for lighting the existing mural on the west end of town were investigated. Given the mural's proximity to the railroad, any new lighting installation would likely need to be located above the mural, adjacent to US 60. There appears to be an existing power source near the at-grade railroad crossing on Maple Road (County Route 60/17), but railroad coordination and permission may be required before this source could be used. This power source is also approximately 500 feet from the location of the mural. In order to provide a power drop from this source, 2-3 wood poles would be required to carry the power source to any newly installed lighting. An alternate solution would be the use of solar-powered lighting fixtures. This would forego the need to transmit power from the nearest source. There are multiple products available in a variety of styles and colors to adequately fit the desired application. This type of fixture would still require appropriate support poles to be installed near the mural, which may require coordination with the railroad or Division of Highways, depending on the existing right-of-way boundaries in the area.



Example of glitiora flow basket (courtesy of garden-artisans)

## STREET TREE RECOMMENDATIONS

Establishing a thriving and resilient urban forest in Belle requires careful tree selection, native planting, and strategic groundcover choices. Diversifying the town’s street trees is crucial, as the current species has been used too consistently—raising concerns that disease or blight could lead to widespread tree loss. Expanding the variety of trees and incorporating native plants and groundcovers will enhance sustainability, support local ecosystems, and create a more enduring landscape. While native West Virginia species are ideal, some non-native selections have also proven to be resilient choices.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern Redbud	Small ornamental tree with spring blooms
<i>Acer rebrum</i>	Red Maple	Assumed existing street tree
<i>Tilia cordata</i> 'Greenspire'	Lindin tree	Hardy, pollution-tolerant, golden foliage
<i>Amelanchier x grandiflora</i> 'Autumn Brilliance'	Apple Serviceberry	Small ornamental tree with spring blooms
<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	Crape Myrtle	Assumed understory tree
<i>Phlox stolonifera</i>	Creeping Phlox	Groundcover, blooms, drought-tolerant.
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-Eyed Susan	Pollinator friendly wildflower
<i>Monarda didyma</i>	Bee Balm	Pollinator friendly perennial
<i>Baptisia tinctoria</i>	Yellow False Indigo	Pollinator friendly perennial

Figure 4.4. Sample of Street Trees and their planting options

The West Virginia Division of Forestry publishes a more thorough list of street trees which should be referenced when selecting species.

To further strengthen Belle’s urban ecosystem, increasing the use of native groundcover plants will improve soil stability, support pollinators, and reduce maintenance needs. Low-growing perennials and grasses can help create a lush, textured landscape while reducing the reliance on high-maintenance lawns or annual flower beds.

## FLEXIBLE FLOWER BASKET OPTIONS

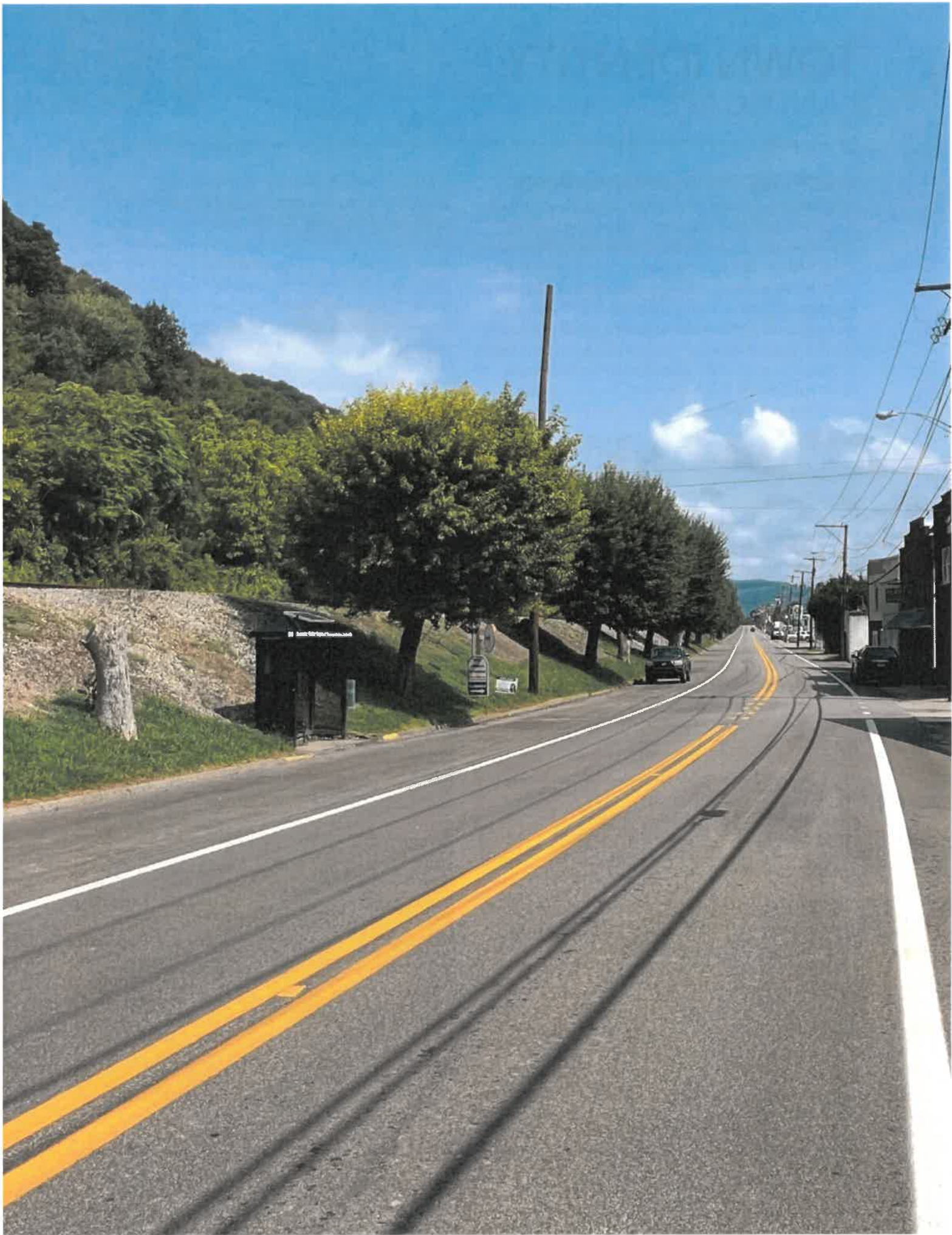
While native and groundcover planting efforts will enhance sustainability, flower baskets will remain a user-driven decision, allowing personal touches to the town’s landscape. Encouraging flexibility in decorative plant selections allows for seasonal creativity, with residents choosing flowers that best suit their preferences while complementing the broader urban greening efforts

## LOW-MAINTENANCE PLANTING

To simplify landscaping while supporting biodiversity, Belle can implement gravel beds in select areas, reducing watering needs and suppressing weeds. Drought-resistant native plants can be prioritized to minimize maintenance, providing habitat for pollinators and ensuring long-term sustainability. Given the small maintenance team, strategies like mulching, clustering plantings, and scheduling manageable upkeep can help streamline care. These efforts could create a resilient, aesthetically pleasing green space that thrives with minimal labor.



Example of a gravel and mulch bed. (Source: This Old House.com)





# 4

## FUNDING STRATEGIES

# FUNDING STRATEGIES

## OPPORTUNITIES

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Communities often rely on multiple funding sources beyond local tax revenue to sustain their operations and initiatives. Like many municipalities, the Town of Belle can benefit from diversifying its funding sources for several key reasons:

1. **Diversification:** Relying solely on tax revenue and state funding can limit long-term development. Expanding funding sources helps reduce dependence on current streams, ensuring financial stability for achieving future goals.
2. **Innovation and Growth:** Additional funding allows Belle to invest in new ideas, expand programs, and promote long-term sustainability through grants, donations, or earned income.
3. **Sustainability:** While Belle has a stable funding base to support its mission, increasing community investment requires diversified funding to maintain a steady resource flow and minimize disruptions.
4. **Flexibility:** Different funding sources come with distinct terms, conditions, and restrictions. Expanding these options provides Belle the ability to pursue various initiatives tailored to their needs.
5. **Adaptability:** Funding landscapes shift over time, with new opportunities and challenges emerging. Broadening funding sources allows Belle to respond effectively to these changes.

A varied funding approach improves financial stability, mitigates risks, and ensures continued effectiveness in meeting community needs. Beyond property assessments, Belle can explore additional funding opportunities such as:

**Business Contributions:** Cities and Towns may also solicit voluntary contributions from businesses within the municipality. These contributions can be in the form of donations or sponsorship for specific events or initiatives.

1. **Fundraising Events:** Communities often organize fundraising events, such as street fairs, festivals, or community activities, to generate revenue. These events may involve ticket sales, vendor fees, or sponsorships, which contribute to Belle's funding.

2. **Grants and Foundations:** Belle may seek grants from government agencies, non-profit organizations, or foundations that support community development or economic revitalization initiatives. The following table provides a database with possible grants, foundations, and other potential funding.

By exploring these strategies, the Town of Belle can strengthen its financial stability, encourage growth, and enhance community engagement while reducing dependency on a single funding stream.

# FUNDING STRATEGIES OPPORTUNITIES

## BELLE POTENTIAL FUNDING SERVICES

DONATION SOURCE	CONTACT INFORMATION
USDA Rural Economic Development	<a href="https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs">https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs</a>
WV Truist Foundation	<a href="https://www.truist.com/purpose/truist-foundation">https://www.truist.com/purpose/truist-foundation</a>
EQT Foundation	<a href="https://www.eqt.com/community/eqt-foundation/">https://www.eqt.com/community/eqt-foundation/</a>
First Energy Foundation	<a href="https://www.firstenergycorp.com/community/firstenergy_foundation.html">https://www.firstenergycorp.com/community/firstenergy_foundation.html</a>
Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation	<a href="https://benedum.org/">https://benedum.org/</a>
Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)	<a href="https://www.arc.gov/">https://www.arc.gov/</a>
Community Development Block Grant	<a href="https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/cdbg">https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/cdbg</a>
T-Mobile Hometown Grant	<a href="https://www.t-mobile.com/brand/hometown-grants">https://www.t-mobile.com/brand/hometown-grants</a>
Scott Electric Foundation	<a href="mailto:admin@scottelectricfoundation.org">admin@scottelectricfoundation.org</a>
National Endowment for the Arts (Our Town)	<a href="https://www.arts.gov/grants">https://www.arts.gov/grants</a>
Huntington Bank	<a href="https://www.huntington.com/Community/corporate-giving">https://www.huntington.com/Community/corporate-giving</a>
WVWDA Economic Enhancement Grant (EEG)	<a href="http://www.wvda.org/programs.html">http://www.wvda.org/programs.html</a>
US DOJ Rural and Small Dept. Crime Reduction	<a href="https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=347557">https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=347557</a>
WV DOT (Transportation) "Alternatives Program"	<a href="https://tinyurl.com/ye2b2b2n">https://tinyurl.com/ye2b2b2n</a>
DEP Litter Grant Program	<a href="https://tinyurl.com/3n77a74k">https://tinyurl.com/3n77a74k</a>
Kanawha County Commission	<a href="https://kanawha.us/county-commission/">https://kanawha.us/county-commission/</a>
DEP WV Make It Shine Stateway Clean Up Program	<a href="https://apps.dep.wv.gov/ppod/make_it_shine.a5w">https://apps.dep.wv.gov/ppod/make_it_shine.a5w</a>
WV State Art, Culture & History	<a href="https://wvculture.org/agencies/arts/grants/">https://wvculture.org/agencies/arts/grants/</a>
Bloomberg Philanthropies Asphalt & Art	<a href="https://asphaltart.bloomberg.org/grants/">https://asphaltart.bloomberg.org/grants/</a>
WV Tourism Cooperative Advertising Grant	<a href="https://wvtourism.com/wp-content/uploads/2022-Funding-Resource-Guide-web.pdf">https://wvtourism.com/wp-content/uploads/2022-Funding-Resource-Guide-web.pdf</a>
DOT Safe Street and Roads for All Program	<a href="https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=347207">https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=347207</a>
DOT Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods	<a href="https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=348980">https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=348980</a>
Public Art Challenge Program	<a href="https://s2fundingopportunities.tumblr.com/">https://s2fundingopportunities.tumblr.com/</a>
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund	<a href="https://www.epa.gov/">https://www.epa.gov/</a>
Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement	<a href="https://transportation.gov/">https://transportation.gov/</a>
Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding	<a href="https://tinyurl.com/nhas25b4">https://tinyurl.com/nhas25b4</a>

# FUNDING STRATEGIES

## IMPLEMENTATION

When starting this planning study, the Town of Belle targeted assisted the design team to focus on the basic concept of providing safer streets for their residents to have pedestrian connections along East DuPont Avenue. This involved providing new sidewalk along the main street, ADA access ramps at all intersections, and more pedestrian scale lighting. Key aspects include:

- Create a unified and consistent municipal design template to be implemented and followed as funding opportunities are available.
- Provide continuous linkages for pedestrians through new sidewalk and accessible intersections.
- Create high visibility pavement markings at road crossings to increase safety.
- Continue working with local and regional artist to expand upon Belle's history and character through individual expression.
- Provide opportunities for lighting of local artwork through murals and future investments in the arts.
- Create a materials palette and product list for future implementation.
- Upgrade lighting from standard AEP cobra-heads to more pedestrian scale lighting with historical character.
- Create or expand on town gateways that promote the historic charm of Belle and allow visitors to know they have arrived.
- Allow for opportunities in town beautification through the use of vegetation.
- Provide clear areas of parking with zero loss of spaces within the design.
- Maintain access to the many businesses and residence that face East DuPont Avenue.

Before achieving these objectives, it is important to note that full implementation may take several years, relying on financing, public and private partnerships, and continued community growth. In the interim, Belle can utilize the materials palette to begin creating town wide continuity through site furnishings, planting areas, and lighting elements.

### COLLABORATE

This role encompasses proposed projects and strategies that the district can influence or implement

through strategic partnerships with organizations and stakeholders such as Kanawha County Commission, WVDOH, Kanawha Valley Regional Transit, community organizations, and advocacy groups. Collaborative projects could include:

- Access and shelters for public transit
- Sidewalk infrastructure
- Lighting improvements
- Vegetation / Plantings
- Public art initiatives
- Street furniture

### DESIGN

This role reflects proposed projects and implementation strategies linked to properties within the right-of-way:

- Improve ADA accessibility in the urban core of Belle.
- Add street furnishings that align with and enhance the consistent design.
- Enhance urban connections through sidewalk upgrades.

### COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS

Improvements proposed in this plan will continue to be vetted by the Town of Belle. As part of this process, and subject to budgeting approvals and limitations, the municipality will prioritize and fund design projects through future phases. Recommended ideas central to the town's focus area designs include the following:

- Enhance existing gateways and entries into the Town of Belle.
- Establish Town Hall as a focal point with landscaping and improved circulation.
- Improve roadways with pedestrian enhancements, including lighting, sidewalks, and street furnishings.
- Add bicycle infrastructure where permissible, such as secure bike parking.
- Make parking more functional and create separation between vehicles and pedestrian paths.

# FUNDING STRATEGIES IMPLEMENTATION

<b>Early Catalytic Projects</b> 0-3 years	<p><b>Streetscapes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sidewalk implementation, ADA upgrades and lighting are initial priorities</li> <li>Initial phases: Town Hall to 9th Street                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lighting</li> <li>Crosswalks + ADA Ramps</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Public Art</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify mural locations and create an art plan</li> </ul> <p><b>Beautification</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance landscape around Town Hall</li> <li>Add new street furnishing at key points (Town Hall and western edge of town)</li> </ul>
<b>Medium Term Projects</b> 3-6 years	<p><b>Streetscapes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sidewalk implementation, ADA upgrades and lighting are initial priorities</li> <li>Secondary phases: Samuel Shrewsbury House to 9th Street                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lighting</li> <li>Crosswalks + ADA Ramps</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Public Art</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to work with the local artists to establish new public art opportunities</li> </ul> <p><b>Beautification</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gateway sign enhancements / maintenance</li> </ul>
<b>Long Term Initiatives</b> 6+ years	<p><b>Streetscapes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sidewalk implementation, ADA upgrades and lighting are initial priorities</li> <li>Last phases: Town Hall to Orchard Avenue                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lighting</li> <li>Crosswalks + ADA Ramps</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Public Art</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to work with the local artists to establish new public art opportunities</li> </ul> <p><b>Beautification</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town Hall parking enhancements and sidewalk to transit stop</li> </ul>

## COST ESTIMATE

Preliminary cost estimates for the proposed projects should be refined as design plans progress. These estimates focus on early phase initiatives to provide connection points within the community.

To align with long-term goals, prioritizing the development of additional projects is essential. Costs may fluctuate due to market changes, but funding can be leveraged through private partnerships. Engaging the community and adopting a phased implementation approach will ensure progress while allowing for necessary adjustments. By following these steps, the projects can be realized in line with our vision.

The cost estimate shown reflects construction cost. Soft costs such as permitting, fees, contingency, or A/E cost would need to be added to the individual phase being designed. These cost can fluctuate based on the work to be implemented. Soft costs can increase the estimate by approximately 30% of the implementation cost.

Category	Estimated Cost
<b>Phases</b>	
Phase One: Town Hall to 9th Street	\$175,000.00
Phase Two: Samuel Shrewsbury House to 4th Street Intersection	\$350,000.00
Phase Three: 4th Street to 9th Street	\$325,000.00
Phase Four: Town Hall to Orchard Ave.	\$450,000.00
Phase Five: Town Hall Plaza and north of E. DuPont Avenue	\$110,000.00
<b>Estimated Project Total</b>	<b>\$1.41M</b>

A phased approach was developed to break the overall concept into sizable projects for the Town of Belle. Five separate phases are highlighted above, but are subject to change pending funding opportunities. Rough order magnitude of cost is preliminary in nature and a detailed cost opinion shall be completed for each phase of development. For cost estimation, 5' wide sidewalks were considered with new light poles every 100 linear feet. Additional design elements such as striping for crosswalks, site furniture, and vegetation were considered as part of these estimates.



Town of Belle  
Est. Dec. 13th 1958  
Recycling  
8/30/24

The sign is rectangular with a dark background. The top section features the text 'Town of Belle' in a stylized font, with 'Town of' in white and 'Belle' in blue. Below this, 'Est. Dec. 13th 1958' is written in a smaller white font. The bottom section of the sign has a red LED display showing 'Recycling' and the date '8/30/24'.





# APPENDIX

# APPENDIX PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

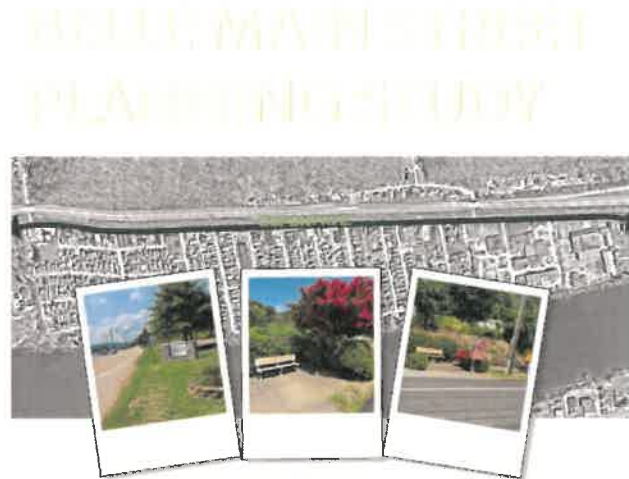
As part of the input process for the Belle Mobility and Safety Project, a public workshop was organized to engage residents and town officials in meaningful dialogue. It was predetermined by GAI that there would be one public meeting, providing a critical opportunity for community members to contribute their insights and perspectives on local mobility and safety issues.

The GAI team facilitated this meeting on February 27, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall in Belle, WV. The workshop aimed to foster an open environment where participants could discuss their concerns, share ideas, and propose solutions related to transportation, pedestrian safety, and overall community accessibility. By encouraging active participation, the meeting sought to ensure that the development plans are reflective of the community's needs and priorities, ultimately enhancing the quality of life for all residents.

The GAI team who assisted were:

### GAI Consultants, Inc.

- James Yost - PLA, ASLA Landscape Architect
- Matthew Skiles - P.E., PTOE, MSE
- Ruby Cole - ASLA, LEED Green Associate Landscape Designer



### PROJECT MEETING: January 2025

The City of Belle is excited to enhance the experience along East Dupont Avenue by improving its infrastructure. We aim to create a more pedestrian-friendly environment, incorporating thoughtful site furnishings such as lighting and seating. Your input and support will help us make this a vibrant space for everyone!

### PROJECT TIMELINE



Mailed to generate interest in the public meeting, inviting the community to participate in the discussion.

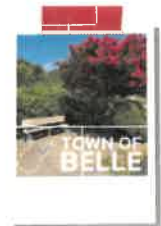


### Join Us for a Public Meeting on East Dupont Avenue!

The Town of Belle invites you to participate in a public meeting focused on creating a more pedestrian-friendly environment along East Dupont Avenue.

This meeting is an excellent opportunity for community members to share their ideas and insights as we explore enhancements to sidewalks, ADA upgrades, site furnishings, and lighting.

- Sidewalk Improvements
- ADA Accessibility Upgrades
- Site Furnishing
- Lighting Enhancements
- Community Placemaking



The feedback collected during this meeting will guide the planning process and help us develop a conceptual design aimed at improving the pedestrian experience.

**We look forward to your participation in this important conversation about the future of East Dupont Avenue!**

Meeting held at  
**Belle Town Hall**  
 1100 E Dupont Ave,  
 Belle, WV 25015  
**5:30 PM - 7:00 PM**  
 February 27, 2025

Flier for the public meeting for local community members and property owners.

## LIGHTING AND SAFETY

# 3



Implementing lighting solutions and safety measures will enhance visibility and security for pedestrians along East Dupont Avenue in the Town of Belle. The goal is to add to the existing lighting structures. All lighting fixtures are owned by AEP and have a lifetime between 50 to 130'.

**What types of lighting are most effective for safety and ambiance?**

**Are there specific areas where enhanced lighting is needed?**

**How can we incorporate smart technology for energy efficiency and safety?**



The public meeting in Belle included around 20 participants, creating an engaging atmosphere for discussion. The GAI team began with introductions, providing an overview of their analysis and project goals. Following this, they presented concepts for site furnishings and best practices for potential designs, giving attendees an idea of the improvements that could be made. The four posters were then discussed:

- **Pedestrian Enhancements**  
*Pedestrian enhancements involves improving walkability and safety for pedestrians in Belle. Attendees shared insights on existing crosswalks and sidewalks, identifying areas for new pedestrian pathways to enhance accessibility.*
- **Traffic Data**  
*Traffic data involves presenting findings on current traffic patterns and Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) on key roadways, particularly East Dupont Avenue. Participants reviewed vehicle counts and peak usage times, discussing potential solutions to improve traffic flow and safety.*

- **Lighting and Safety**  
*Lighting and safety involves emphasizing the need for adequate illumination in public spaces. Attendees discussed areas for improved lighting, particularly near crosswalks and community gathering spots, to enhance safety and encourage nighttime use.*
- **Community Character**  
*Community character involves defining and celebrating Belle's unique identity. Participants shared thoughts on the town's aesthetic, including architectural styles and historical landmarks, providing input for design guidelines that reflect the community's values.*



# APPENDIX

## LIST OF FIGURES

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## FIGURES

- **Figure 1.1** : Location Map of Belle, West Virginia
- **Figure 2.1** : NACTO example of an ideal intersection design
- **Figure 2.2** : Existing conditions of Belle's Town Hall
- **Figure 2.3** : Proposed redesign for Belle's Town Hall
- **Figure 2.4** : Example of existing residential housing
- **Figure 2.5** : Example of proposed design for residential areas
- **Figure 2.6** : Existing condition of local commercial areas
- **Figure 2.7** : Concept design for commercial areas
- **Figure 2.8** : Concept plan for potential design for Belle
- **Figure 3.1** : Example of pedestrian crossing sign
- **Figure 3.2** : Street tree placement for 10' wide sidewalks
- **Figure 3.3** : Furnishing placement for 10' wide sidewalks
- **Figure 3.4** : Furnishing placement for 12' wide sidewalks

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The background features a light blue-grey color with three vertical stripes of varying widths on the left side. Four horizontal lines cross the page: a dark red line at the top, followed by three dark grey lines. The text is positioned in the bottom right area.

**EAST DUPONT AVE. |**  
SAFETY AND MOBILITY PLAN

