



3.0 Issues & Challenges

Issues and challenges were identified through stakeholder interviews, an advisory committee, public meetings, and consultants' analysis. The processes used to gather information included: one-on-one and group interviews, and public brainstorming and table sessions.



Signage along Cumberland Avenue



Traffic Operations

- Difficult to make left turns into driveways and streets
- Restricted left turns
- Unpredictable traffic patterns (avoiding inside lanes because of left turns)
- One-way streets confusing to visitors
- Major destinations needing to be served (University and the hospitals)



Safety

- Lack of left turn lane contributes to crashes (rear-ends)
- High volume of pedestrians crossing street
- Emergency vehicles impeded by inability to pass in congested 4-lane condition
- Sidewalks too narrow for volume of pedestrians
- Difficult to get to Third Creek Greenway from Cumberland (under railroad bridge)
- Lack of space on street to share with bicyclists

Pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular safety along Cumberland Avenue is an issue



Service & Deliveries

- Alleys too small for large delivery trucks
- Delivery trucks stop in travel lanes on Cumberland and on sidewalks, stopping traffic or blocking pedestrians
- Lack of consistent policy (delivery times & zones)

Delivery trucks block one lane of traffic along Cumberland Avenue since the alley conditions are not ideal for service



Hospitals & University

- Hospitals & University continue to grow
- Desire to create a safe pedestrian environment
- Cut-through traffic speeds through hospital campus
- Students parking in hospital decks
- Safety & security for visitors
- Events (football games) obstruct hospital traffic
- Cumberland Avenue is the “first impression” for visitors

Potential to continue to build on proximity of institutional uses



Transit

- Transit stops are not well defined, creating unpredictable pick-up/drop-off traffic pattern
- Improved transit amenities (signs, etc.) get vandalized or stolen
- Good transit service but stops and waiting facilities need to be removed
- Need to consolidate stops to keep traffic flowing smoothly

Cumberland Avenue's transit options



Development Standards

- Fast food and other drive-throughs inconsistent with desired pedestrian environment
- Desire for more density
- Desire for more mixed-use
- Lack of neighborhood serving businesses
- Current zoning/standards are out-dated and strip-commercial based
- Inconsistent approach to building and parking placement

A mix of development conditions line Cumberland Avenue



Landmarks

- Businesses that are part of the history of the strip
- Rocky Top Books, Copper Cellar, Old College Inn, Longbranch Saloon, etc.
- Can they be protected and enhanced?
- Are they compatible with future development?

There are several landmarks located along Cumberland Avenue



Parking

- Lack of public parking deters visitors
- Negative first impression (highly parcelized and regulated)
- No enforcement of on-street parking (old meters, little enforcement)
- Aggressive/Predatory towing (towing with little or no warning)
- No on-street parking on Cumberland Avenue

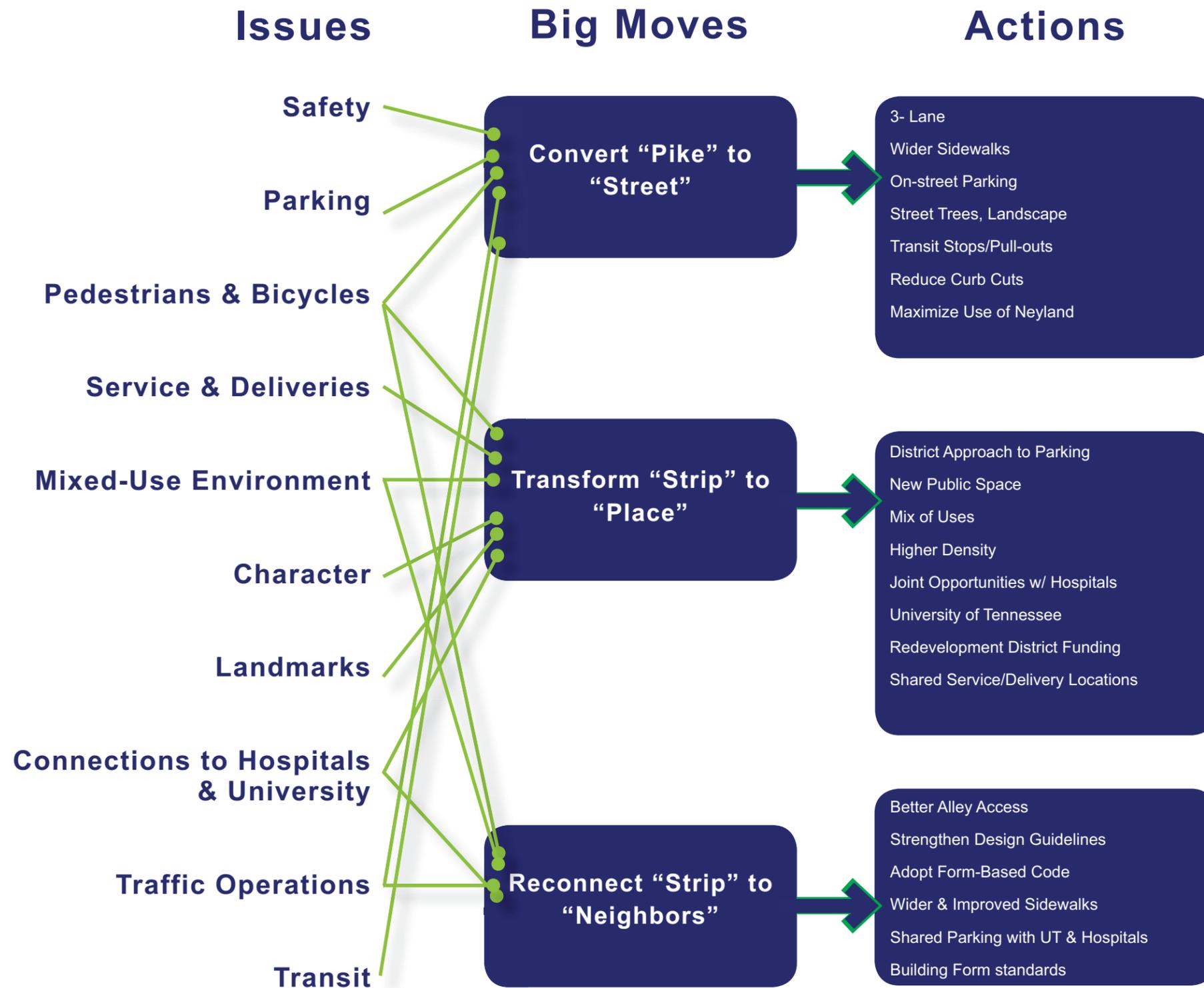


Parking is a concern for the area

View of Cumberland Avenue looking toward Downtown Knoxville

Character

- Cumberland Avenue is seen as “back door”; many businesses orient toward the alleys
- No consistent design of public or private investment
- A motor vehicle-oriented environment viewed as unsafe by both pedestrians and drivers
- Lack of “green” landscape, street trees, etc.



Vision Statement

The "Issues-Big Moves-Actions" diagram illustrates a structure that synthesizes the wide range of Issues facing the corridor into a set of Big Moves and Actions or recommendations to be implemented in the plan. The Issues and Actions are reflective of comments received through the Advisory Committee and public input sessions. The Big Moves are a set of common goals put forth that tie the Issues and Actions together.

The vision statement is a summation of the "Issues-Big Moves-Actions" diagram that describes the corridor's envisioned character and qualities. The vision statement was presented and discussed during the December 5th, 2006 public kick-off presentation and forms the foundation of the Cumberland Avenue Corridor Plan.

Vision Statement:

Cumberland Avenue will be a uniquely attractive and vibrant area that turns a "pike to a street," a "strip to a place," and reconnects to its neighbors.

The Cumberland Avenue Corridor will:

- Be pedestrian-friendly & bicycle-friendly
- Have a range of unique local shops, eateries and public spaces, and a full spectrum of housing options
- Move vehicles safely & effectively without giving up the quality of the pedestrian environment
- Have ample parking, in shared lots and in structures that serve the district
- Be green, clean, uncluttered and inviting
- Be well-connected to its historic and emerging neighborhoods, University, hospitals and Knoxville's downtown
- Have its own special identity