

# Listening Sessions Report

Toledo Lucas County Public Library

**Holland Branch**



**Toledo Design Collective**  
URBAN PLANNING & DESIGN



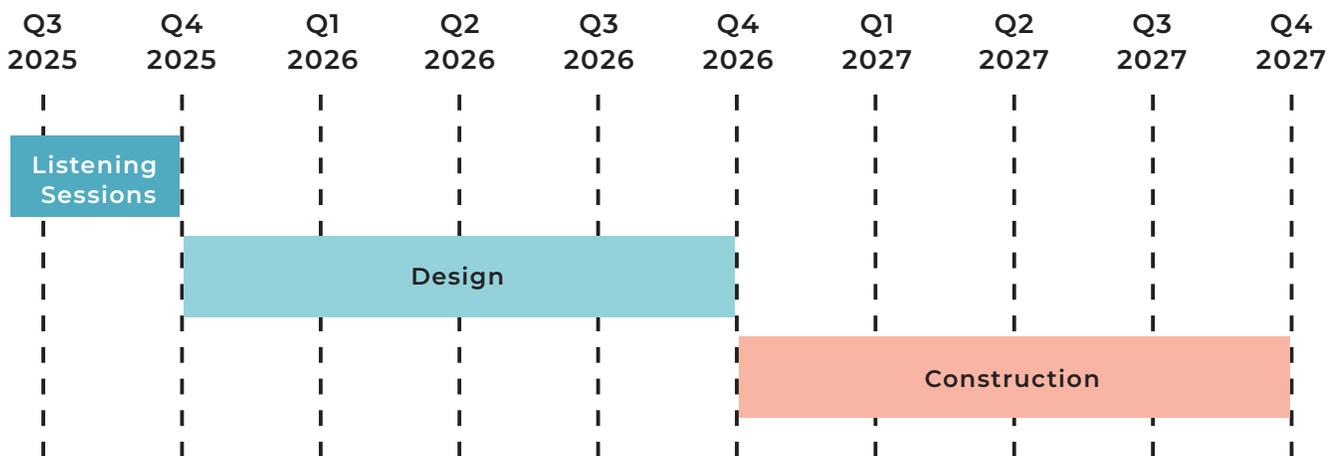
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# Overview

In response to the passage of a one-mill bond in November 2024, the Toledo Lucas County Public Library system is embarking on a decade-long transformation, with the Holland Branch slated for major redevelopment beginning in late 2026. Through a series of listening and feedback sessions, the community has voiced a clear vision for the future of the branch: a space that retains its warm and friendly character while evolving to meet modern needs.

# Timeline



# Listening Sessions

## Holland Branch – Fall 2025

Listening Session  
Wednesday, October 8  
5:30 – 7:00 PM

Listening Session  
Saturday, October 11  
10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Reflections  
Thursday, October 30  
4:30 – 6:30 PM



# Summary

Community feedback regarding the forthcoming Holland Branch redevelopment reveals a strong desire to honor the branch's welcoming, small-town character.

While maintaining size, scale, and function is important, there is also a desire to enhance accessibility, expand youth and family spaces, integrate modern technology, and include more flexible community areas. The Library should remain a relevant hub for learning and connection for both current users and future generations.

The community expressed deep appreciation for the Library's friendly staff, cozy atmosphere, and connection to its natural surroundings, especially its proximity to Strawberry Acres Park, an active park surrounded by homes that gives the area a strong sense of community. Participants envision a space that continues to serve as a trusted neighborhood anchor while evolving into a multi- and inter-generational hub for creativity, learning, and community life.

The feedback also highlights the community's wish for inclusivity, accessibility, and a physical design that blends functionality with warmth and local identity.



Participants share feedback on current and future Library plans



Holland Branch Library, nestled in Strawberry Acres Park amid the Holland community

## Key Takeaways from Public Feedback

- Strong sentiment to preserve the branch's natural light and landscaped surroundings
- Desire for larger, separated children's play areas, comfortable seating, quiet reading areas, and family/ADA restrooms
- Interest in flexible spaces for live music, craft clubs, yoga, and community events connected to outdoor areas
- Requests for diverse and expanded book collections, including Black authors, graphic novels, local archives, magazines and large print
- Enthusiasm for maker labs, digital display screens, touch screens, multimedia rooms, device checkout options, and more power outlets
- Focus on accessibility across the building: ensuring entrances, restrooms, and book sections are easy for all users to navigate, with staff support readily available
- Emphasis on clear signage, safe pedestrian access from McCord Road, and a compact, navigable layout

## Key Recommendations for Design & Programming

- Preserve and modernize the branch by retaining its friendly, human scale while integrating light, technology, and adaptable spaces
- Promote intergenerational engagement through events, cultural programming, and wellness activities that invite all ages to learn, create, and connect
- Strengthen indoor-outdoor connectivity with Strawberry Acres Park through terraces, gardens, and outdoor programs
- Expand technology and creative infrastructure, including a Maker Lab, flexible learning rooms, and hybrid-ready spaces
- Enhance accessibility and comfort with clear wayfinding, private and quiet areas, ergonomic furniture, and efficient circulation
- Deepen connections with the Springfield Local School District, the Village of Holland, the Holland Springfield Chamber of Commerce and other surrounding organizations to extend programming reach



# Community Feedback

Library patrons described the Holland Branch Library as a cornerstone of community life, valued for its welcoming staff, safe atmosphere, and ease of access. Participants emphasized the need for enhanced amenities, including larger, separated play areas for children, teen areas, improved accessibility features, and more seating and quiet zones. They also advocated for enhanced technology, including additional outlets, digital display screens, touch screens and maker spaces, alongside flexible meeting rooms and community activity spaces that allow for a diverse range of programming.

## What the community said:

The key words and phrases below come directly from community members and form the basis of the recommendations in this report.

### Building & Design

- Accessible
- ADA
- Café
- Comfortable seating
- Community garden
- Compact
- Counter space
- Cozy
- Decoration
- Ergonomic chairs
- Green space
- Larger restroom
- Low shelves
- Meeting room
- Natural light
- Noise-free
- Open
- Outdoors
- Defined hubs with an open feel
- Pick-up
- Pillows
- Plants
- Play area
- Private reading
- Private rooms
- Seating
- Short entrance
- Signage
- Special needs
- Storage space
- Study rooms
- Trees
- Warm
- Wayfinding
- Welcoming
- Well-lit
- Working space

### Technology & Innovation

- 3D printers
- Children & Tech
- Computers
- Digital display screens
- Interactive
- Kindles
- Multi-media
- Plugs/outlets
- Touch Screens
- Shade for screens
- Technical skills
- Toys
- Used books
- World globe

### Community & Accessibility

- DIY Healthcare
- First aid
- Help close to computers
- Public transit
- Safety S McCord Rd.
- Staff support nearby
- Strawberry Park

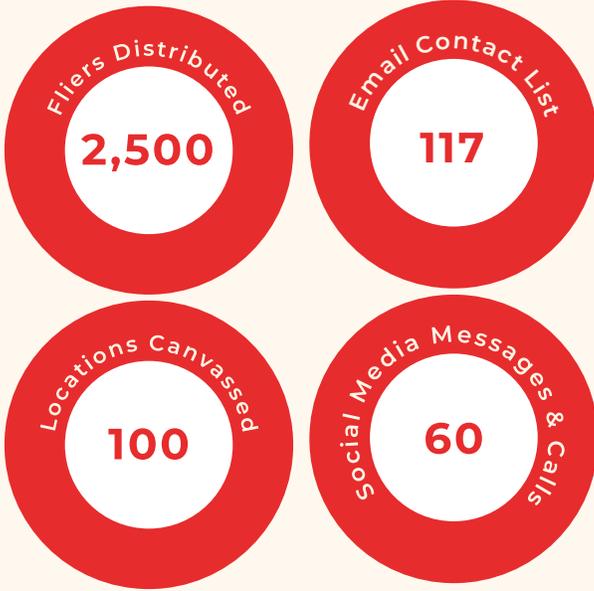
### Activities & Play

- Classes
- Community meetings
- Craft club
- Exhibitions
- Ice cream making
- Live music
- Makerspace
- Pre-teens reading to kids
- Puppets
- Story time
- Tai Chi
- Teen leadership
- Visiting experts
- Workshops

### Reading & Resources

- Archival section
- Black novels
- Booksale
- Business & Finance
- Children's non-fiction
- Consumer reports
- Family history
- Gothic
- Graphic novels
- Herbology
- Historical collection
- Magazines
- Manga
- Newspapers
- Queer book club
- Romance
- Youth

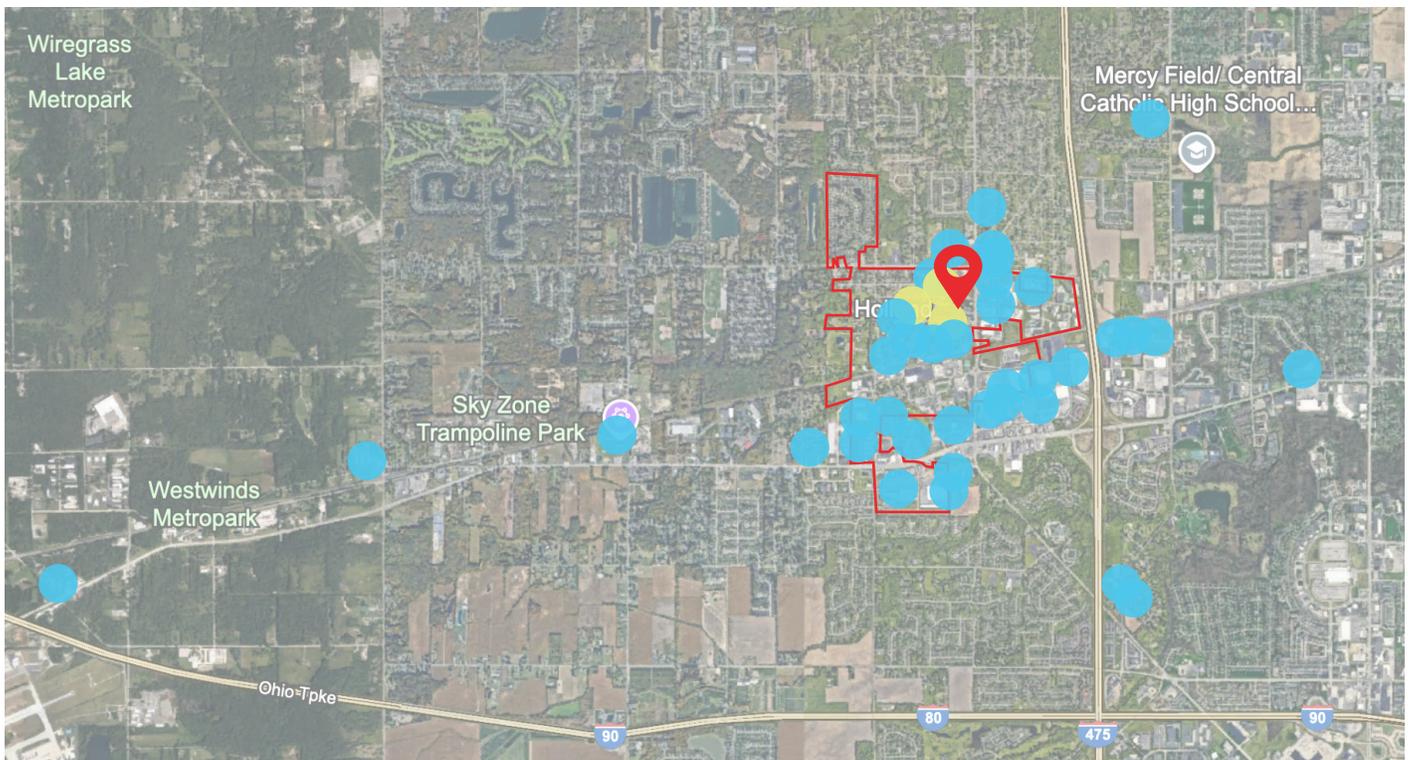
# Outreach



TDC-led outreach focused on the Village of Holland and key local businesses, organizations and gathering places. In addition to these outreach efforts, the Toledo Lucas County Public Library engaged patrons via the Library’s Building for the Future website page, social media posts, and frequent newsletters.

**Outreach partners:**

- Al-Madinah Community Center
- Chinese Association of Greater Toledo
- Islamic Society of Northwest Ohio
- Holland-Springfield Chamber of Commerce
- Springfield Area Prevention Coalition
- Springfield Local School District
- Village of Holland



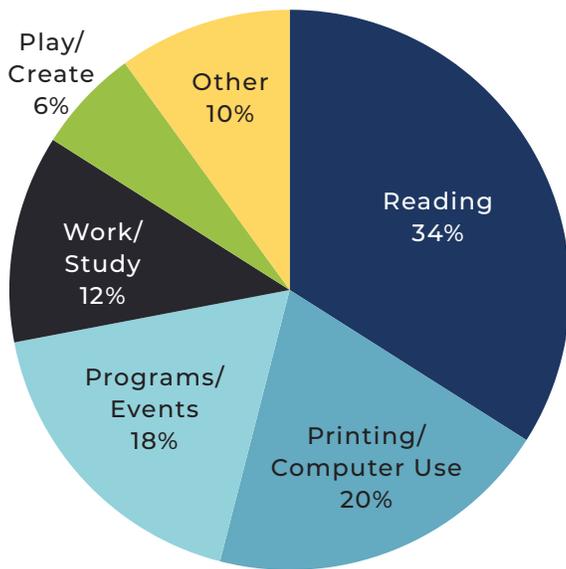
Map showing where the TDC team canvassed the community for outreach and feedback session engagement



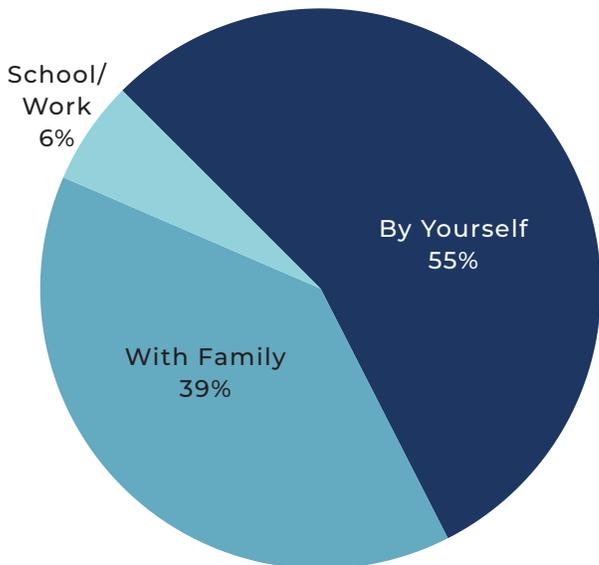
# Quantitative Summary

Across multiple categories, participants used sticker voting and open comments to prioritize needs. The results of attendance and findings are included below.

### What Do You Do at the Library?



### Who Do You Visit The Library With?



## Engagement Overview

Total Activities

**3**

2 listening sessions  
1 feedback session

Total Participants

**~40**

25 signed in  
19 Library card holders

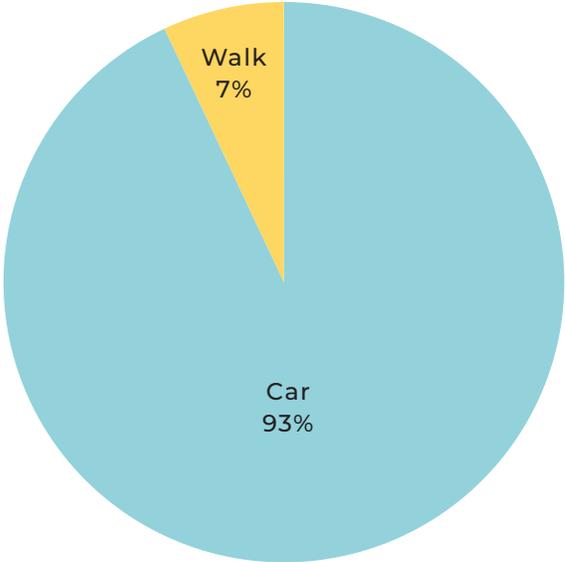
Total Interactions

**411**

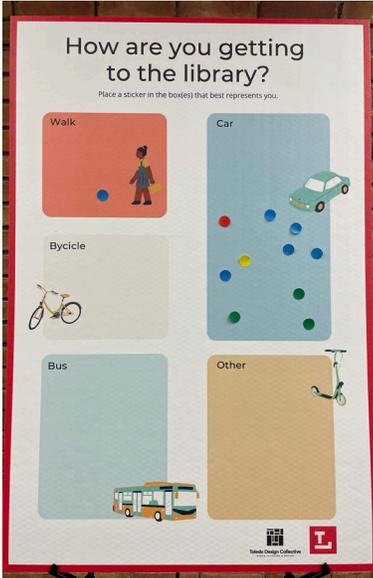
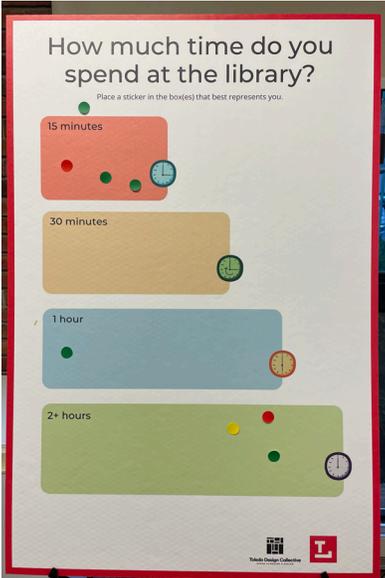
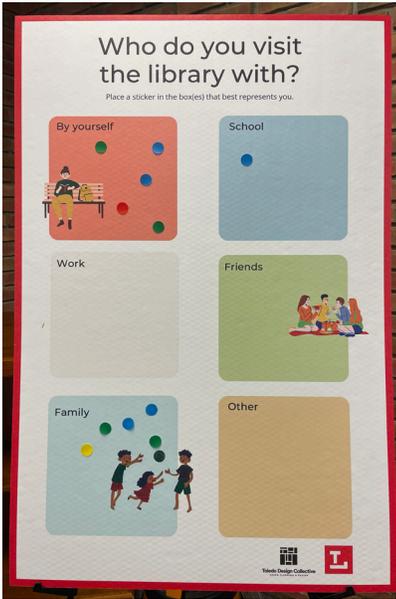
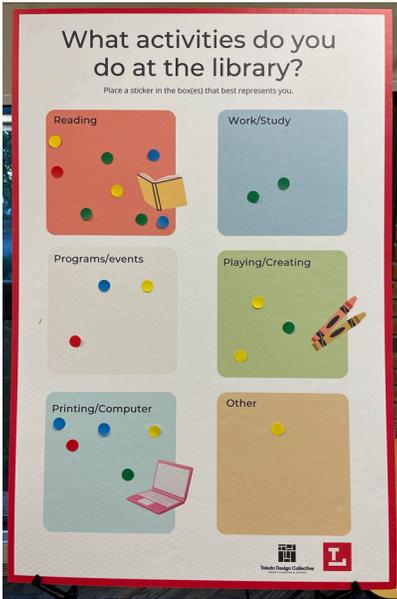
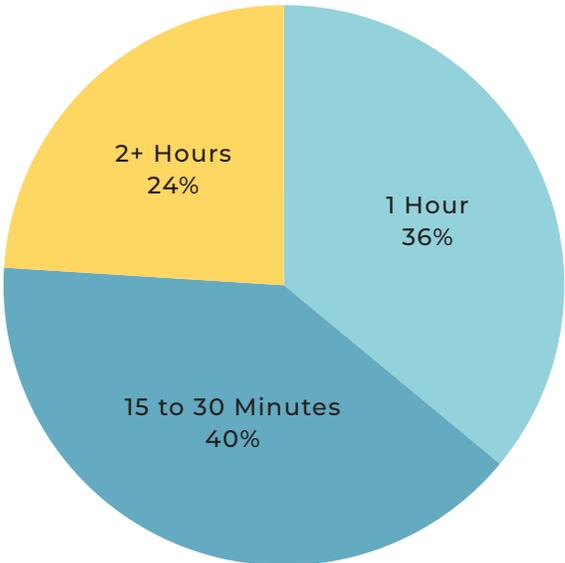
210 Comments  
201 Votes

# Participant Feedback

How Are You Getting To The Library?



How Much Time Do You Spend At The Library?



# Community Mapping Insights

## Building & Space Improvements/Considerations

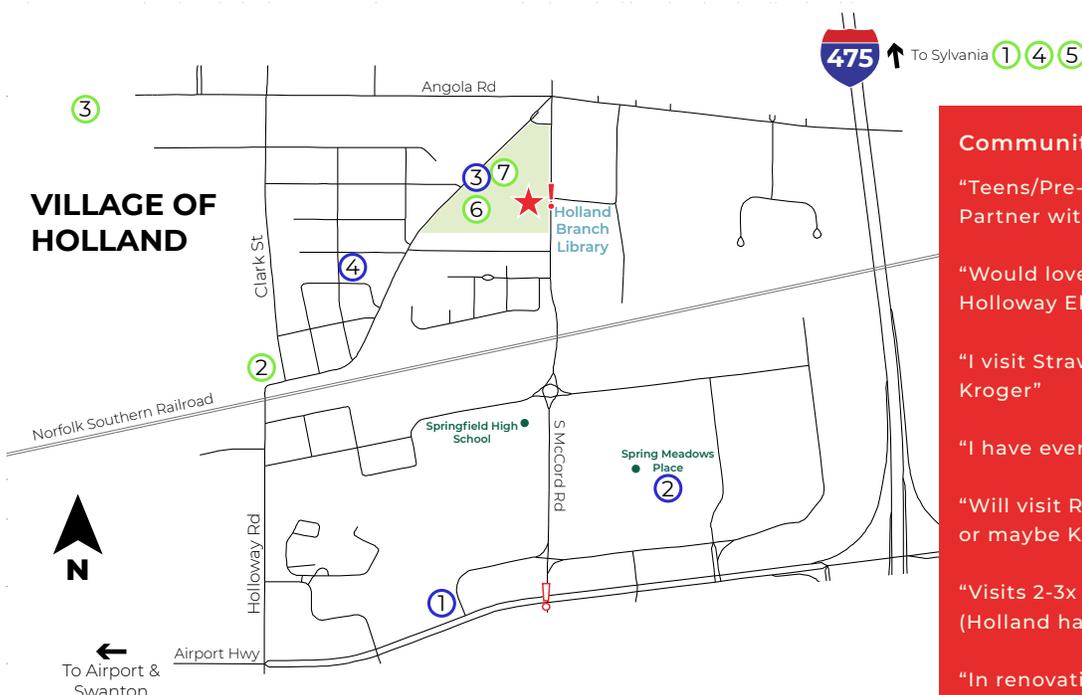
- Larger and better-equipped children's areas
  - More seating and private study rooms
  - Improved accessibility and signage
- Expanded book collections, especially for diverse and youth audiences
  - Technology upgrades and multi-use spaces
- Preservation of the Library's cozy and welcoming feel

## Popular Destinations

1. Bigby Coffee
2. Spring Meadows Place
3. Strawberry Acres Park
4. Toledo Kennel Club

## Connection Enhancements

1. Defying Odds Therapy Playspace
2. Firenation Glass Blowing and Art Gallery
3. Homecoming Park
4. Lattes and Littles
5. Lincoln Green Park
6. Pickle Ball Courts
7. Strawberry Acres Park



- ! Difficult to cross S. McCord Rd. to access shops
- ! Include signage at the intersection of Airport Hwy. and S. McCord Rd. directing people to the Library

### Community Quotes:

- "Teens/Pre-Teens reading to younger kids. Partner with PENTA"
- "Would love to see Partnerships from Holloway Elementary and Swan Creek"
- "I visit Strawberry Park after shopping at Kroger"
- "I have everything I need within 3 miles"
- "Will visit Reynolds Corners, Heatherdowns, or maybe King Libraries while closed"
- "Visits 2-3x per week from Swanton. (Holland has more books and computers)"
- "In renovations, don't lose the charm of the nature and cozy feeling"
- "I would love it to connect with the green, open spaces in the area. The Metroparks are my favorite thing in the Toledo area"

# Key Themes From Community Feedback

## Spaces & Amenities

- Desire for larger, separated children's play areas that maintain visibility and safety
- Designated zones for different age groups, including quiet zones and private study areas
- More seating (benches, cozy nooks)
- Family/ADA restrooms, larger with counter space
- Areas for food and drink

## Activity & Play

- Children's area designed with clear visibility for caregivers
- Requests for live music, community events, craft clubs, exercise (yoga/Zumba, tai chi) classes
- Flexible spaces for performances, exhibitions, and educational workshops
- Connection to outdoor spaces

## Reading & Resources

- Reading and books are the heart of the Library
- Interest in diverse book collections (e.g., Black authors, graphic novels, DIY/health, manga, magazines, large print)
- Requests for archival sections, used book sales, and quiet reading areas
- Desire for more youth and teen book selections

## Technology & Innovation

- Suggestions for maker labs, 3D printers, digital display screens for library information and book recommendations, touch screens for room and event registration, and more outlets
- Need for multimedia rooms, Kindle/tablet checkouts, and computers for kids
- Request for windows providing natural light without interfering with screens

## Community & Accessibility

- Maintain clear visibility of and access to staff
- Emphasis on clear signage, accessible layouts, and safe access from McCord Rd
- Importance of short walking distances, including parking, and transit connections
- Requests for partnerships with local schools and organizations

## Building & Design

- Strong preference for maintaining a cozy, friendly atmosphere
- Desire for natural light, noise-free zones, and compact, navigable layout
- Appreciation for current charm and landscaping
- Requests for soundproofing, comfortable furniture, and decorative elements like plants





## Emotional Tone & Themes

Feedback frequently praised staff and highlighted the importance of human connection and trust as central to the branch's identity. Many comments blended affection for the existing building's coziness with eagerness for modern upgrades, suggesting a strong desire for continuity through transformation. Requests such as "Can you be open on Sunday?" or "Protect access to books" show an engaged and loyal patron base seeking both convenience and stewardship of core Library values.

## Design & Spatial Implications

Community members responded positively to draft design concepts that emphasized openness, natural light, and outdoor connectivity. There was enthusiasm for potential links to Strawberry Acres Park and flexible interior layouts that support programs, performances, and active learning. The data suggests that multi-functionality and adaptability should guide the design, ensuring that spaces can seamlessly transition between quiet study, group programming, and multi and inter-generational activities.

*My favorite staff in the system!*

- Library Patron



Conceptual renderings by Buehrer Group Architecture and Engineering, Inc.

## Architectural & Design Recommendations

### 1.

#### Create a Branch That Embodies “Community-First Modernization”

- Balance innovation with inclusivity; a modern Library that feels like home
- Embed universal accessibility, sustainability, and equity in all design decisions
- Prioritize spaces that invite lingering: cozy nooks, daylight reading spots, and community tables
- Design a timeless building, adaptable to changing Library functions while maintaining its role as a neighborhood heart

### 2.

#### Preserve Familiarity, Warmth, and Human Scale

- Retain the cozy, friendly atmosphere residents associate with the current branch while modernizing materials and lighting
- Maintain strong staff visibility and proximity to patrons through an open yet intimate floor plan
- Use natural materials, warm colors, and abundant daylight to sustain the branch’s approachable feel
- Prioritize quiet zones and soundproofing to balance activity and calm, especially near reading areas

### 3.

## Design for Multi-Generational Flexibility

- Incorporate zoned areas for different age groups. Children, teens, and adults with clear sightlines for caregivers
- Include adaptable rooms that can transition between activities (crafts, meetings, performances, study, etc.)
- Design furnishings and partitions that are mobile or modular to easily reconfigure spaces as needs evolve
- Support evening and weekend use, anticipating flexible operating hours or community events

### 4.

## Strengthen Connections to Nature and the Surrounding Environment

- Create visual and physical connections to Strawberry Acres Park through windows, patios, or shared landscaping
- Consider a small outdoor reading patio or play space to extend programming into nature
- Use biophilic design elements. Plants, natural textures, daylight modulation to enhance well-being
- Integrate stormwater and sustainability features (e.g., native plantings, shaded seating)
- Foster a “Library Village” atmosphere by designing outdoor and indoor spaces that encourage casual gathering and a sense of community at the heart of the neighborhood



Conceptual rendering by Buehrer Group  
Architecture and Engineering, Inc.

## 5.

### Enhance Accessibility and Circulation

- Ensure short walking distances from parking and accessible drop-off zones at the main entrance
- Improve pedestrian and transit access from S. McCord Road and nearby bus stops
- Include clear, consistent interior signage and wayfinding with strong color contrast for visibility
- Design a compact, intuitive layout easy to navigate for users of all ages and abilities
- Provide ergonomic, universally designed furniture throughout (chairs, counters, restrooms)



Conceptual rendering by Buehrer Group Architecture and Engineering, Inc.

## 6.

### Expand Technology and Creative Learning Infrastructure

- Integrate a Maker Lab or Tech Studio equipped with 3D printers, creative software, and digital tools
- Ensure abundant power outlets and charging stations throughout reading and study areas
- Provide a dedicated technology classroom or media room for workshops, meetings, and hybrid events
- Include robust Wi-Fi coverage and flexible lighting and acoustics for multimedia use
- Incorporate digital display screens to share Library information, highlight programs and events, and feature book recommendations
- Design spaces that thoughtfully interact with natural light throughout the day and seasons, minimizing glare and blinding on computer screens and reducing reliance on shades.
- Provide interactive touch-screens that allow visitors to search the catalog, reserve meeting rooms, and register for events



## 7.

### Reimagine Spaces for Reading, Reflection, and Resource Discovery

- Dedicate quiet reading rooms with comfortable seating and strong natural light
- Utilize visible feature shelving to highlight diverse and culturally representative authors and collections
- Include large-print, graphic novel, and local history sections as distinct, easily navigable zones
- Retain ample print collection space alongside digital access, honoring the community's request to "protect access to books"
- Add a used book resale or exchange area to encourage browsing and reuse

## 8.

### Support Family and Community Life

- Include a children's play and learning area with safe materials, strong visibility, and room for caregivers
- Create a teen hangout zone that feels distinct, social, and tech-friendly
- Provide multi-purpose rooms for arts, music, and educational programming, connected to community use
- Design for flexible community gatherings: presentations, exhibitions, small concerts, or workshops
- Ensure family restrooms and accessible, well-sized women's restrooms

## 9.

### Foster Identity, Character, and Local Connection

- Reflect Holland's small-town charm and park adjacency in the architectural language, perhaps referencing agricultural or garden motifs
- Incorporate public art, murals, or local storytelling elements that celebrate community identity
- Explore exterior forms or materials that visually connect to neighborhood character and surrounding green space
- Consider a sustainability narrative through the design: tree forms or canopy shapes, visible solar features, native plantings, or reclaimed materials

## 10.

### Plan for Phasing, Closure, and Communication

- Clearly communicate closure timelines (Q2 2026) and temporary service continuity during renovation
- Pilot small-scale partner-led programs during the renovation period (2026–2027) to sustain engagement
- Design construction phasing and site access to minimize disruption to neighboring properties and the park
- Allow for future flexibility and expandability in infrastructure, including technology, HVAC, and modular furnishings



Conceptual rendering by Buehrer Group Architecture and Engineering, Inc.

# Future Considerations & Recommendations

These recommendations draw on community feedback topics outside the scope of architectural programming for the building, as well as TDC's perspective as urban designers and planners. Building on existing strengths and highlight opportunities for the Holland Branch Library to strengthen its role as a community anchor in the Holland community.

## Communication & Presence

- Maintaining clear communication and, where feasible, a visible presence will be important throughout the transition from the current branch to the renovated building. By keeping services and staff accessible, the Library remains a reliable resource, reinforcing its role as a community anchor even during periods of change
- Clear communication of hours and services during construction  
Recommend alternate branches for patrons during any full closure periods  
Ensure continued access to core services where possible, for example via:
  - Pickup / dropoff points for Library materials
  - Scheduled "Ask a Librarian" sessions, curated book bundles, and technology support in parts of the building unaffected by construction
  - Pop-up services at partner locations (schools, parks, neighborhood local businesses)
- Coordinate with community partners to develop a shared calendar that includes Library offerings and partner events. This helps sustain access to services and education even if the physical branch is partially or fully closed



Conceptual rendering by Buehrer Group Architecture and Engineering, Inc.

## Library as a Community Hub

Holland is a well-functioning community with a wide variety of shops, sport facilities, faith organizations, restaurants, and other services, but lacks a dedicated civic gathering place. The Holland Branch Library, surrounded by a public park, many amenities and homes, has the potential to become the community gathering place the area does not yet have.

Strawberry Acres Park was originally 19 acres donated by the Strawberry Festival Organization. The Village of Holland later gifted a small part of that land to the Toledo Lucas County Library for the redevelopment of the Holland Branch Library. The park, where the annual Strawberry Festival began, hosts families, recreation, community events and private gatherings. Given this legacy, and the park's public space and amenities, the Library's location offers a unique opportunity for the branch to evolve into a civic hub.

### Strawberry Acres Park Amenities:

- Walking paths (6/10 mile loop with exercise stations)
- Dense tree canopy and shaded seating
- Picnic tables, grills, and covered shelters
- Pickup / dropoff points for Library materials
- Public restrooms (heated)
- Two playgrounds
- Gazebo for gatherings and events
- Seven pickleball courts
- Reservable lodge and community building
- Ample lighting, including historical-style street lighting
- Ample parking



Pickleball courts and playground at Strawberry Acres Park. Credit: Village of Holland

In addition to the amenities provided by the Village of Holland, the Library is surrounded by many homes, Springfield Local Schools and other community anchors, offering potential for collaboration and local reach. This setting gives the Library the opportunity to become a “Library Village,” a community-focused Library hub where learning, recreation, and community connection intersect. Visitors could:

- Stay longer by combining Library use with park-based activities
- Engage in informal learning and community interaction
- Experience the Library as a “third place” — a welcoming, inclusive space for all ages



1. Toledo Kennel Club
2. Spring Meadows, A Villa Center
3. American Legion
4. Pickle Ball Courts
5. Playground
6. Strawberry Acres Lodge
7. The Village Scoop
8. TrueNorth
9. Cabo Cantina
10. Compelled Church
11. Islamic Society of Northwest Ohio
12. Grape Leaf Diner
13. Springfield Schools

Network of community anchors surrounding the Holland Branch Library

Ultimately, this relationship should guide both programming and building design. The redeveloped Library should have a relationship with its surroundings, in this case Strawberry Acres Park, Springfield schools, and other community amenities—emphasizing permeability, visibility, and flexibility between indoor and outdoor spaces, following best practices for “Library Village” models.

# Library Village Examples



Eltham Library in Victoria, Australia, is located near a train station and surrounded by parks and local cafes. Its courtyard features amphitheatre-style steps, creating a space for community gatherings and outdoor programs. The Library hosts storytimes, author events, book clubs, and skill-building programs, and includes a seed Library and community gallery, fostering social interaction, educational opportunities, and engagement with the surrounding environment, making it a true neighborhood-focused Library hub. Photo and design by Jeavons Landscape Architects and Greg Burgess Architects.



Grandview Heights Public Library Pavilion in Grandview Heights, Ohio, reimagines the traditional library as a vibrant community commons. Guided by community engagement, the design prioritizes equitable access and flexible public spaces. Features such as a community porch, an elevated stage, programmable lawn, reading garden, food truck plaza, and connected walks create an inviting environment for everyday use, events, and informal gatherings. A pull-off for cars and buses, along with a drive-through service window, further expands access for families, older adults, and patrons with mobility or time constraints, reinforcing the Library's role as a dynamic civic anchor. Photo and design by WSA Studio.

# Connectivity & Accessibility

Community feedback brought to light several opportunities to improve access, mobility, and safety around the Holland Branch Library as well as connectivity with surrounding community anchors. These considerations should guide both the upcoming renovation and broader site planning, and could open doors to partnerships with the City of Toledo, TARTA, and other regional planning agencies and service providers.



## Safety & Pedestrian Improvements

Several opportunities for safety and pedestrian improvements were identified. These insights should guide both the renovation and broader site planning.

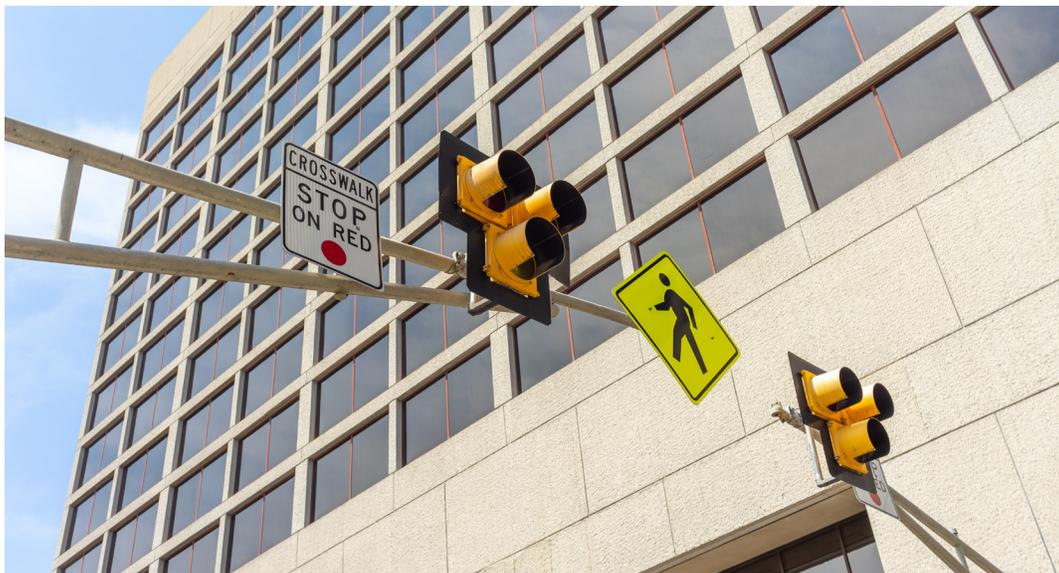
### Key challenges:

The Library entrance is on a busy arterial road (S. McCord), making it difficult for vehicles to make left turns when exiting, and risky for pedestrians attempting to cross to reach nearby eateries, shops and amenities.

Surrounding residential zones, which include community anchors and a care facility, could see enhanced pedestrian connections to the Library and park, increasing accessibility for residents without private transportation.

### Recommendations:

- Strengthen pedestrian infrastructure along S. McCord Road and to support safe crossings by improving lighting, signage, and crosswalk visibility
- Install pedestrian-activated crossings (for example, a HAWK pedestrian beacon) or implement curb-extensions with marked crosswalks at Spectrum Dr.
- Reconfigure the five-point intersection at Clarion Ave., Kipling Dr., and Marquette Ave. by implementing targeted traffic-calming measures in addition to stop signs. Potential options include a residential-scale traffic circle, raised pedestrian crossings, a single-lane oval roundabout, or a median island that converts Marquette Ave. access to right-in/right-out only



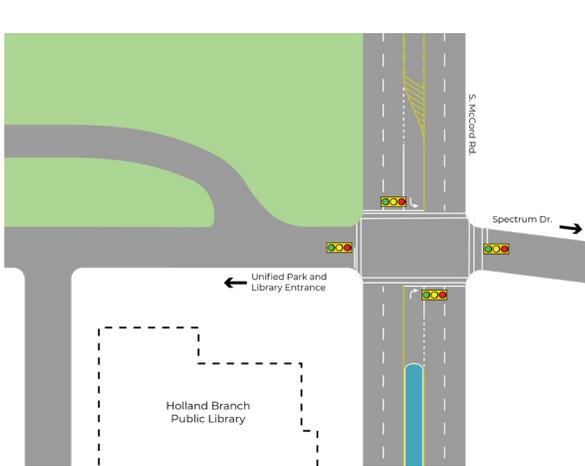
Example of High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk beacon (HAWK)

# Flow & Connectivity

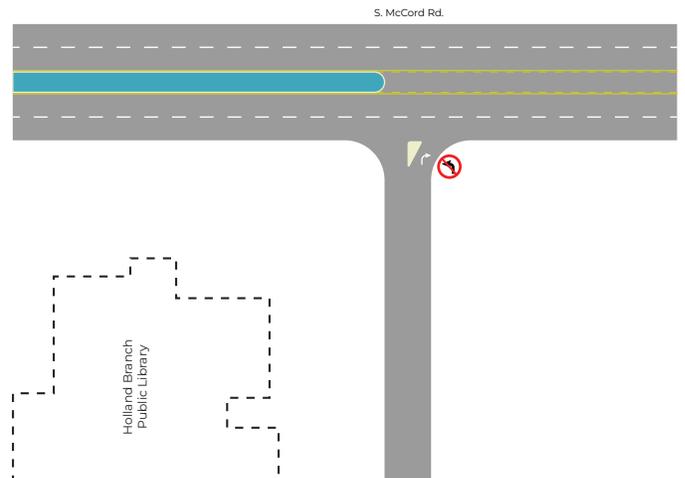
The current layout of the site, with separate access points for the Library and park, limits intuitive movement between these public spaces. Strengthening their physical and visual connection could encourage longer Library visits and more integrated use. Furthermore, alongside safety and pedestrian improvements in the immediate surroundings of the Library, connectivity could be enhanced to other community assets. In particular, attention should be given to the proximity of Springfield Local Schools.

## Recommendations:

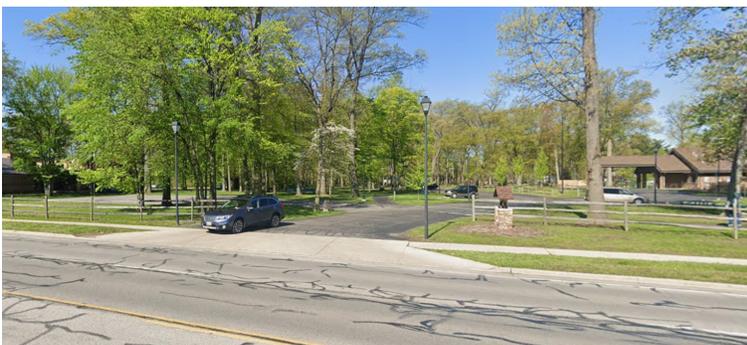
- Explore a unified entrance serving the Library, park lodge, and park grounds
- Provide direct, accessible paths linking the Library building to park amenities
- Provide a secondary building entrance oriented toward Strawberry Acres Park
- Improve wayfinding and signage to clearly connect the Library, park features, and nearby neighborhoods, making navigation easier for all users
- Ensure efficient connectivity between the Library and local schools across the train-track overpass. Design or improve site context so that school buses can stop safely and conveniently either by the Library, in Strawberry Acres Park, on S. McCord Road once the recommended crossing enhancements are implemented



Possible shared access to the Library and park, featuring a unified entrance design for easy access



Proposed median island permitting left-in movements while restricting left-out movements



The current entrance to Strawberry Acres Park, oriented toward the parking area, is not directly connected to the Holland Branch Library.

## Modes of Transportation

Most patrons who responded to the engagement said they arrive by car, which underscores the importance of parking. However, multimodal access remains limited. Expanding transportation options will help more people reach the library.

### Recommendations:

- Partner with Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) to explore extending bus service to the Library in the future. Currently there are no bus stops on S. McCord Road directly serving the Library. Current fixed route service includes:
  - Route 32 (Holland / Spring Meadows via South/Airport Hwy.), which serves Spring Meadows with return service to Downtown Toledo
  - Route 27 (Hill / Holland Sylvania / Reynolds Corners via Hill and Dorr roads), which serves the Holland Sylvania/Reynolds Corners area
- Consider a grade separated bike trail connecting the Holland Branch Library to Springfield Local School District
- Provide bike friendly infrastructure at the Library: Install secure bike racks or covered bike storage to support cycling as a practical, everyday access mode
- Support access by bike and small personal mobility options (such as bicycles, e-bikes, scooters, three-wheel devices, and mobility devices): Work with TMACOG, regional planning partners, and local bike advocacy groups to improve safe routes to the Library, including bike lanes and shared-use paths
- Regional trail initiatives led by partners such as TMACOG, Metroparks, and other agencies can be kept in mind as potential ways to improve bicycle connections to the Library in the future

## Streetscape Best Practices

In addition to the site-specific recommendations outlined above, several broader streetscape and public-realm design strategies may help guide future improvements by the Library, the Village of Holland and regional partners in and around the renovated Holland Branch Library and Strawberry Acres Park. These best practices are widely recognized for enhancing safety, accessibility, and overall user experience in community-serving environments.

### Safety & Walkability

- Provide wide, ADA-compliant sidewalks and clear, continuous pedestrian routes
- Use high-visibility crosswalks, pedestrian signals, and enhanced lighting at key crossings
- Apply traffic-calming tools such as curb extensions or raised crossings, to slow vehicle speeds

# Streetscape Best Practices, Continued

## Greening & Public Realm

- Add street trees, landscaped buffers, and storm water-management features such as rain gardens or permeable paving
- Provide shaded seating, adequate lighting, and small gathering areas that support comfort and safety throughout the day
- Incorporate public art or interpretive elements that reflect local identity and enhance sense of place

## Traffic & Safety Coordination

- Explore signal timing adjustments, leading pedestrian intervals (LPIs), and simplified intersection geometry to reduce conflict points
- Coordinate improvements with broader safety initiatives such as Toledo's Vision Zero Plan, the Lucas County Active Transportation Plan, and TMACOG Complete Streets guidelines

## Multimodal Access

- Plan for potential future transit service, including safe, accessible waiting areas
- Introduce protected bike lanes or shared-use paths where feasible, and provide secure, convenient bicycle parking
- Strengthen first/last-mile connections with clear wayfinding, continuous sidewalks, and potential micromobility hubs
- Incorporate EV-ready infrastructure, such as conduit for future charging stations or designated EV spaces, to support evolving mobility needs and reduce long-term retrofit costs

# Toledo Lucas County Public Library's Strategic Goals for 2021-2026:

- **Help children learn to read (birth – third grade)**  
Have a measurable impact on the individual lives of children (birth through third grade) via Library tutoring, reading, and teacher-outreach programs in direct support of increasing the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment rate and the passing rate of Third Grade Reading Guarantee
- **Help students succeed (third – twelfth grade)**  
Provide pathways to success in the individual lives of students and young adults through participation in Library afterschool programs, strategic partnerships, and mentorship opportunities
- **Help adults expand their horizons within our areas of expertise**  
Ensure ninety percent of Lucas County residents have an active Library card.
- **Provide technology access**  
Ensure every person in Lucas County has access to a computer and Wi-Fi when they need it.
- **Provide technology skills development**  
Ensure every customer can go to any Library location, at any time, to meet and/or expand their technology skills.
- **Serve as the go-to community connection and hub**  
Position the Library as the institution where community members turn when they want to engage one another or connect with vital community resources.

Through the recommendations in this report, the renovated Holland Branch is envisioned as a modern yet familiar civic destination that blends curiosity, learning, and community while advancing the Library's strategic goals. Flexible, adaptable spaces, integrated technology, and thoughtfully designed connections to Strawberry Acres Park and surrounding amenities will support intergenerational engagement, creativity, and exploration.

By preserving the branch's warmth, approachable character, and human scale, while incorporating enhanced youth and family areas, quiet reading zones, updated technologies, and hybrid-ready programming rooms, the Library will inspire early literacy, support student success, expand opportunities for adult learning, and provide equitable access to technology and skill-building.

Thoughtful accessibility, intuitive wayfinding, and inclusive, comfortable design will ensure the Holland Branch remains welcoming to all. Enhanced safety, walkability, and connectivity will make the branch easier to reach, enabling both current patrons and new visitors who rely on walking, biking, or transit to fully engage with the renovated Library.

With a design that strengthens indoor-outdoor relationships, encourages lingering, and supports informal learning and neighborhood connection, the renovated Holland Branch will stand as a Library and community hub, anchoring curiosity for generations to come.

# Teams

## **Toledo Lucas County Public Library**

Jason Kucsma, *Executive Director/Fiscal Officer*

Mike Graybeal, *Director of Operations/Deputy Fiscal Officer*

Nick Hamilton, *Project Coordinator*

Lucas Camuso-Stall, *Director of Government Relations & Advocacy*

Terri Carroll, *Director of Communications and Design*

Hannah Grohowski, *Holland Branch Library Manager*

## **Toledo Design Collective**

Ryan A. Bunch, *Studio Director*

Cathy de Haan, *Outreach and Development Manager*

Jesse Heider, *Design and Project Coordinator*

Manuel Mathis, *LISC AmeriCorps Member*

Sean Kidd, *Urban Planning Co-op, Fall 2025*

Mike Young, *TDC Board Member*

Stephanie Shackelford, *TDC Board Member, Senior Vice President for Projects and Planning & Chief Information Officer at the Lucas County Land Bank*

Alissa O'Neill, *TDC Board Member, Architect, The Collaborative*

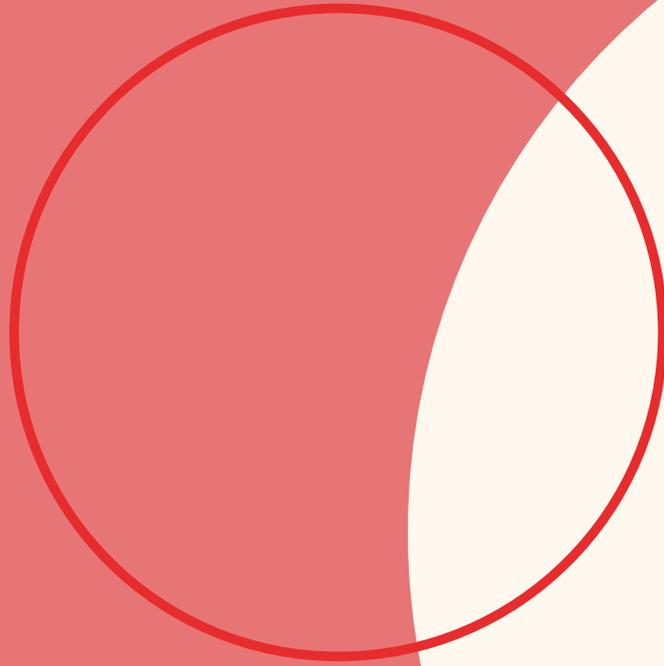
Stephanie Bartlett, *TDC Board Member, Vision Zero Coordinator, City of Toledo*

# Special Thanks

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