

Kettering Active Living Workshop Summary

The Kettering Active Living Workshop was held on May 6, 2026 at the Kettering Fire Headquarters (4745 Hempstead Station Drive, Kettering, Ohio 45429). The event was a joint effort between the City of Kettering and The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC). The workshop was attended by residents, local government employees, and other interested parties. The purpose was to introduce and interactively discuss the active living conditions within a focus area of the city. Kettering staff shared on their motivation and interest in the topic of active living and MVRPC staff presented findings from the PLAN4Health – Miami Valley Built Environment Assessment and discussed the topic of active living. Workshop participants engaged with multiple activities throughout event, including a walk around the fire headquarters along Hempstead Station Drive / East David Road to observe pedestrian conditions, a “spot the difference” exercise, an active living evaluation and exploration mapping activity, and a visual preference exercise. The following pages show the outcomes of the workshop activities.

[Click here to see a copy of the workshop agenda](#) | [Click here to see a copy of the workshop presentation](#)



Active Living Evaluation and Exploration Mapping Activity

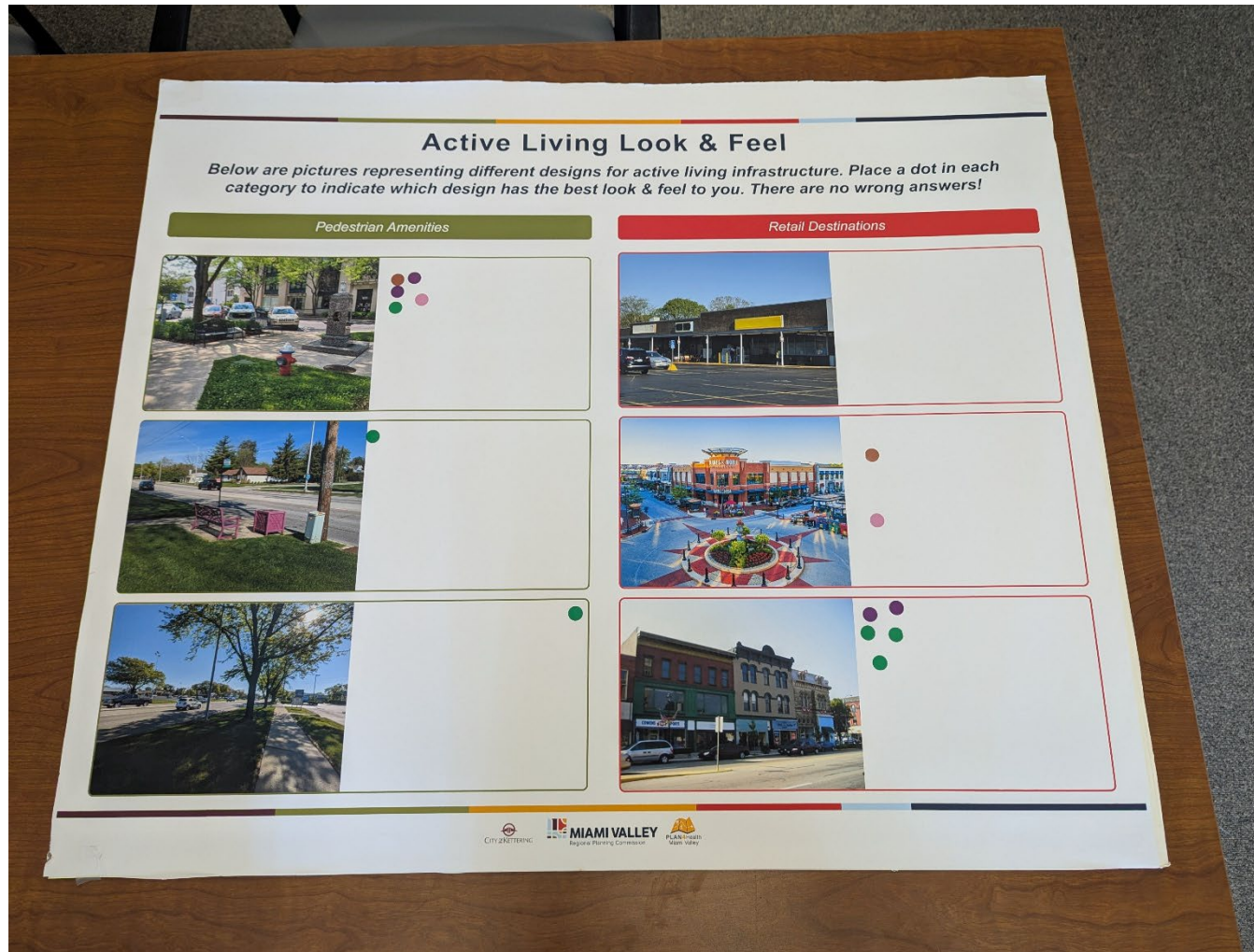
Participants were asked to evaluate active living conditions and recommend interventions within a focus area of Kettering. The following images reflect their comments.





Active Living Look and Feel

Participants were asked to indicate their preference for a range of amenities to support active living. The following pictures show the outcomes of this dotting exercise.



Active Living Look & Feel

Below are pictures representing different designs for active living infrastructure. Place a dot in each category to indicate which design has the best look & feel to you. There are no wrong answers!

Crosswalks



Street Design



My Active Living Considerations

Knowing that active living infrastructure exists in the area, but that it may be underutilized, participants were asked to indicate what may discourage them from taking part in active living activities.

My Active Living Considerations

Use your sticky dots to indicate which of the following categories discourage you from living more actively. If there is another reason not listed below, please place your dot in the "other" category and describe it!

Not Enough Time ●	Lack of Connectivity ●
Lack of Energy ● ●	Lack of Nearby Destinations ● ● ● ● ●
Safety Concerns ● ● ●	I don't usually consider active living as an option
Infrastructure Conditions ● ●	Other (Please describe using a Post-It note)

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Activities and Discussion Summary:

Analyzing the content of the activities and discussion revealed some insights.

- For the look and feel activity participants showed strong preferences towards crosswalks that are well marked, have pedestrian islands, and plenty of signage and flashing lights to alert drivers. Additionally, a more traditional brick and mortar retail destination was preferred over other retail options.
- Street design was a bit more mixed in the look and feel activity. Both preferences included wide streets with a median and appropriate foliage that helps pedestrians / passively slows traffic.
- Much discussion centered around the need for mid-block crosswalks along the long blocks in the study area, particularly on Hampstead Station, David, and Stroop.
- Meijer and the surrounding commercial area were noted as being particularly hard to access as a pedestrian, with ideas given on where connections could link surrounding pedestrian routes to Meijer.
- Programming was discussed as a way to encourage more activity, such as food truck rallies, play streets, dropping kids off a block away from school, etc.
- The commercial center located at the intersection of Stroop and Marshall was noted as having potential as a more walkable and less automobile dependent retail destination, which is supported in Kettering's new comprehensive plan.
- Safety was a concern for bikers along some routes, where the bike route is shared with automobile traffic.
- Some residential areas lack sidewalks, mostly in the eastern half of the focus area.
- The most commonly cited reason by participants for what discourages them from participating in active living is the lack of nearby destinations to travel to.