

# An Oral History of Ray Trevino

4<sup>th</sup> Street | Prater Way History Project

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Interviewer: Bethany Underhill

Ray Trevino directs St. Vincent's Dining Room at 325 Valley Road in Reno. A native of Texas, he moved to Nevada after graduating from high school, then attended UNLV and served in the U.S. Army. Trevino began working at St. Vincent's in the 1990s. He discusses the organization's free lunch program and describes the move from the dining room's previous location on Third Street to its new facility on Valley Road, near the City of Reno's new Community Assistance Center.

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## RAY TREVINO

Interviewed on April 11, 2012  
Bethany Underhill, Interviewer

*Ray Trevino directs St. Vincent's Dining Room at 325 Valley Road in Reno. A native of Texas, he moved to Nevada after graduating from high school, then attended UNLV and served in the U.S. Army. Trevino began working at St. Vincent's in the 1990s. He discusses the organization's free lunch program and describes the move from the dining room's previous location on Third Street to its new facility on Valley Road, near the City of Reno's new Community Assistance Center.*

Underhill: Hello. I'm here at St. Vincent's at 325 Valley Road with Ray Trevino in his office, and he is the director of St. Vincent's Dining Room. It is April 11, 2012. Ray, can you tell me where you were born and about your schooling?

Trevino: I was born in Floresville, Texas, thirty-two miles southwest of San Antonio, Texas. I went to Floresville High. I graduated there and moved to Nevada right after high school.

Underhill: What made you want to move to Nevada?

Trevino: My dad was stationed here at Stead Air Force Base. He was military police, and my mother worked for Sears. I came here after being raised by my grandmother.

Underhill: Where did you work? Did you go to school right after high school?

Trevino: I was interested in going to school at Texas A&M, and my family was pushing me that way, to go to Texas A&M, so I could study theology, and I really wanted to do something for the church at that time. However, for economic reasons and because my grades weren't up to what they should be to get into Texas A&M, I got a partial scholarship for Sul Ross College and a partial scholarship for San Marcos State in Texas. Both of them are teacher schools. I declined that and moved to Nevada to be with my family.

Here I visited UNR, I did not like UNR. I wound up going to UNLV, and I went to UNLV for a small amount of time. That was in business. I went into the service right after that. I did not finish UNLV. And then I came back.

Underhill: What branch of the military did you serve in?

Trevino: Army.

Underhill: How long have you been living in Reno?

Trevino: I think since about 1960. My folks were here in the forties. They moved here in the forties because he was got stationed here by the Air Force. I don't know if you know, you're a young person, but Stead used to have an Air Force base and it was quite a big military unit there, so they needed military police. He went from Texas to Fort Benning, Georgia, and then from there he came out here, came out west.

Underhill: After you served, where did you start working?

Trevino: I worked in different places. I noticed I was not happy with the places I worked, but I did work in construction in Washoe County, Storey County. I even went to Alaska on a short trip working for Morrison-Knudsen. It's an international construction firm. Then I came back and I wanted to go into the restaurant business, so I started up a little restaurant and that led me to another and that led me to another, and then a bar here and a bar there. I wound up with five restaurants and five bars at one time.

Then I got married and had children, and then I got divorced and the children were growing up. When I got divorced, I decided to give myself back to the church and give myself to Jesus, and Jesus brought me here to St. Vincent's years and years ago. I've been here twenty-one years now. St. Vincent's was a very small place and we've grown into what it is now.

Underhill: Going back to when you first came to Reno, did you have any preconceived notions of Reno? Did you have any idea what it would be like here?

Trevino: No, just that my folks really liked it here. They liked it here a lot and they encouraged me to come out here for opportunities.

Underhill: You said it was mainly religious motivation to begin your work at St. Vincent's—did you immediately become a director?

Trevino: No. I came as a volunteer. I volunteered three days. I wanted to volunteer forever once I came in the door and I saw what there was. Father Wright was in charge then. Father Wright brought me over to the director at that time, who was Kevin Day, and he told Kevin, "This is the type of person I want to run the dining room." They put me on the payroll, and I told them I didn't want any money, I didn't need any money. That's not why I was doing this. After a year they decided to pay me a little bit. So here I am now, twenty-one years later.

Underhill: So you worked for St. Vincent's when it was at its old facility as well.

Trevino: Yes.

Underhill: What was the transition to the new facility like? How is this new building different from the old one?

Trevino: The old building was an old constructed building on Third Street. It was a Grand Auto business before. Since we moved, the building has been knocked down. It was 6,500 square feet, corner to corner, outside to outside. The inside was remodeled to put in a walk-in and a freezer, small living quarters, one room, and then the kitchen.

It was remodeled by several big people in the community at that time. William Thornton was one of them. Mr. Nightingale was another. Cavanaugh's were another. They were the big instigators of having this done for the Catholic Church, for the Catholic diocese. It was on Lake Street before it was made to move out of that area onto Third Street. We have been in existence

for seventy-one years. It's been a great place for people to come and to have their lunch. We've always had a lunch program.

You asked how that building compared to this building, and I would say that three of those buildings would have fit into the building that we have now. There, we served 280 to 350 people at noon every day, Monday through Sunday. There's a seven-day workweek. I helped design this building. I helped design the entire kitchen. All of the equipment is my idea. The colors that you see everywhere are my colors. So we have traded that 6,500 square feet for 319,000 square feet, with the help of the city and a couple of foundations. Their help has been very dramatic because they're the ones who helped build this institution here that we have now.

Now we serve up to 850 people in a lunch program that we have Monday through Saturday. It's only six days right now. However, we're working on reopening on the seventh day. We're trying to get that. For economic reasons, we had to fall back a little bit and open just six days, but we're looking at opening up seven days again.

Like I said while ago, we have a lunch program. We do not have a dinner program yet. However, when I designed the kitchen for the future, I designed it with proper equipment so we could have a lunch and a dinner program for whoever needs dinner. Whoever needs lunch, we're here.

Underhill: I didn't know that you helped design all of this. What was that like? Did you have to do a lot of research or did you just go from all your experience that you had? When did this building become your headquarters?

Trevino: Having all the businesses in the past and being connected to several organizations that I've been associated with, it seems like it was easy for me to look at the future. It was easy for me to tell the mayor and the Wiegand Foundation, "I need so many square feet." Everybody laughed at me and said, "You're never going to get that. You're going to get exactly what you have here." This was prior to us moving.

I said, "Okay. Fine. Then we're not moving."

They said, "Well, you have to move."

I said, "You know what? You want to tackle the Catholic Church? Go right ahead. You tackle the Catholic Church. I, right now, don't want to move. So come up with some more proposals." We had different meetings in the city with different organizations, with different donors, and the city itself, the mayor, Mayor Griffin at that time, and then later Mayor Cashell. So we'd been visited. I'd been visited by Senator Reid, by several dignitaries, including our governor.

We have the ability to go forward. Going forward, we have to look at what can we do the best. Our mission is to help people. Our mission is to feed people. Here at the dining room, that is our mission. Our mission for the organization is to help people with whatever their needs are, no questions asked. We don't ask for anything. We don't want to benefit from anybody. That's not the reason why we're here. We're here because we believe in Jesus, we believe in the Lord, we believe in doing this type of work for Him. We believe that we are set in the right place to help people.

I've been blessed. I don't know where this knowledge comes from. I pray a lot and it seems like He tells me what to do. Our kitchen has grown to have seventy to eighty volunteers a week who pledge their time. They want to come and be part of this. Again, those are people who do it with the passion in their heart. They don't receive anything. They receive our thank-yous.

We get all pumped up because we see people in the community who really want to help. However, the volunteers who come don't expect to get anything out of this other than whatever it is that they are personally looking for. Do you understand what I'm saying?

Underhill: Yes. I definitely saw that yesterday.

Trevino: Yes. I'm glad you were here yesterday. You did see us do a feeding, and there were over seven hundred people yesterday. As the month goes on, it escalates into being more and more of a population. We do not take names here; the door's open for everybody—men, women, children. Children have to be escorted by a family member or by a guardian. We don't care who it is. We feed the homeless people, we feed the working poor, we feed anybody who comes to the door.

We run strictly by donations here at the dining room. So it's kind of hard to keep on going, but we push and push and the community helps us out a lot. If it wasn't for the people in the community, I don't think we could exist.

We're going into the seventy-second year, I believe, and I think we're solvent right now, not enough to put out the second dinner yet, but we're working on that.

Underhill: You said you "had" to move from your location on Third Street. What was the force?

Trevino: That's really a long story. It has to do with politics. I'm not a politician. I know that we were outgrowing that building. The city wanted to build a campus for all of the organizations to work together. The building across the street, which is the old Commercial Hardware building, became available in the early nineties, so Catholic Charities took a big step to acquire that building.

Through the years, this property was donated to the city. The property was barren except for a small plumbing company that was here, owned by Jack Reviglio. He also had dibs on the property around here. He bought the property and donated it to the city, and donated his property to the city when he moved to a different location.

So the city, having all of this in mind, decided to build a couple of buildings on Record Street, which became the family shelter, the men's drop-in, and the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission. Valley Road is the next street over, so they decided to ask us if we would move here and build a building from the ground up, with most of the footage that I wanted, keeping in mind that I was already told that we weren't going to move because they were going to give me what I wanted.

I've always thought that I'm put here for a reason. I've always thought that I want to help people. That's my goal, that's my life, that's what I feel I should be doing. I believe that that's what the Lord put me here for. Having said that, the specifications of this property became available to me when I was told that, yes, I could have this, I could have that, I could actually have a huge kitchen where I could grow with that kitchen, with the possibilities of newer equipment, better equipment to be able to feed hundreds of people daily. So when I was given that green light, I jumped on it, I worked with it, I went ahead and here we are now today.

Underhill: That's really amazing. So what's your relationship with the other charities in the area, with the Gospel Mission? Do you guys ever work together or do you just keep to yourselves?

Trevino: We've been kind of in the Dark Ages, you might say, in the community because we are who we are. We've been in business for over seventy years. That tells you that it's a success. Why is it a success? Monetarily-wise? No. People-wise? Yes. Are we a success because we're an island? No. We're a success because we have partnered with many, many other agencies. Coming into the years of 2008, 2009, and forward to now, we have partnered with many other agencies that are in the same mission of helping people.

When I said that we're in the dark area, it is because we've believed that people who need help will find us. Well, yes and no. There are many people who are living in the community who are not Catholic. Catholic people know of St. Vincent's. They know that we feed the homeless. It hasn't been to where we've been advertising for years and years and years, because that wasn't the mode. That was not important. Getting into the present times it is very important because the economy the way it is. Partnering with other agencies is the most important thing that there is in our community. Why? Because we can extend the benefits and we can extend what we have to do for others. Remember, we are here to help people.

On my end, the dining room, I pride ourselves in being who we are, of being able to help people every day. We don't stop with just one or two meals. I don't know where we stop. I have medical groups that come here to the dining room. There are leadership groups that come here from across the United States. The mayor loves this area because he likes our dining room because of its cleanliness, its ambiance, its lighting. He has meetings here. Other groups have meetings here.

Medically speaking, we have opened the doors to many people who need medical attention. Whether they need an HIV test, whether they need a blood pressure test, whether they need a dentist, whether they need footwork, they need general practitioners.

I opened the doors a long, long, long time ago to medical groups that want to come in here. The School of Nursing from the university comes here once or twice a year. They do their work here in our dining room. Why in our dining room? I want to offer the dining room to everybody because the people are here. They're not across the street; they're here. They're not at the river; they're here. People come to eat here. They come to spend their hour and a half here. So why not offer services at that time? Consequently, it does work. Many people, agencies that have been here before, doctor groups, nurses, dentists, people who cut hair, everybody wants to come here to help the people that need help. So in answer to your question, the dining room is more than just a feeding place.

And it's going to be more in the future. People like you who are interested, people like you [specifically addressing the interviewer] who become interested in our mission, who become interested in other people are the most important to us because you're young, you're the one who's going to carry the banner for us. Whether you think that this is just a paper for school or not, this is going to work on you.

Underhill: Oh, I know.

Trevino: As it works with you, you'll have others who you will bring with you, either here or someplace else, to volunteer to help others, and that's what life is all about, helping others. Life is love. God is love.

Underhill: You say people are here. How does the location on Fourth Street affect your ability to provide services? Is it more effective being here?

Trevino: To answer your question in short, where we were on Third Street was good, but it was isolated. Having moved here and opening the doors, you might say, with other agencies, the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission is right across the street from us. The family shelter is right across the street from us. The men's drop-in center is right across the street from us. On the other side, on the east side, we have our own Catholic Charities building where we have our executive offices. We have our adoption center, immigration center. We have a pantry. We have emergency assistance. So we are centrally located, you might say.

When Tent City was built, they built around us because they know that we offer something free. We offer substance. We offer a meal. We offer something that people can use daily. So having moved here was probably the best move that I have had in my adult life. Being away from here would not work the way it's working now.

Underhill: How much of your food is donated or purchased?

Trevino: I would say 80 percent of our food is donated. We do a certain amount of buying because we don't have the proper channels to get the donated items that we need, specifically like Styrofoam cups, a certain size of items. I had partnered with other companies that offered these products to me for free. However, there's no consistency in sizes. We believe that if there's an eight-ounce bowl of soup, everybody should get an eight-ounce bowl of soup.

Sometimes people's mentality as they come through the line is that they believe that somebody's getting more than they are. It doesn't work like that. We offer the same thing to everybody. I believe you saw that yesterday. You were firsthand here. I asked you to come because I wanted you to see what we actually do, to get a formation in your mind as to how we operate. So about 80 percent of our items that we have in our—you might say—business, what we feed the clients, is donated. The other part is not donated. We do have to do some purchasing.

Underhill: Do the donations affect what you choose to cook for that day or how do you plan the meals?

Trevino: When we have the trucks go out into the community to pick up foods, they go to a certain number of stores. Today is Wednesday. Today our truck only goes to five stores. Thursday, tomorrow, our truck goes to eight stores. Friday, our truck goes to eleven stores. And they have to be there at certain times. Having said that, we pick up different things. When the truck rolls in, I look in there to see what there is, and that's how I make my meal.

Underhill: Are stores your main source of donations or are personal donations a factor?

Trevino: Personal donations run about 10 percent. The different stores supply us with about 60 to 70 percent of our groceries, and then it comes into the other 20 percent of us buying.

Underhill: When you moved to Fourth Street, were you aware of any community response? What was the reaction of your neighbors?

Trevino: You really want to know this?

Underhill: Yes, I do.

Trevino: Well, when we moved here, we had meetings every month with our neighbors, private businesses, the Police Department, the mayor's office. We had several caregiver organizations that also came to our meetings. Meetings were productive because our neighbors, the business neighbors, they did not want all this influx of homeless people, people who weren't working, people who were in and out of jail, people who were drinking and considered bums, and people who were just sleeping on the street, people who were using the restroom on the street on every corner and behind every bush. We worked with the Police Department. We worked with the people themselves. I, myself, worked with the people day and night. I guess I just want to do that.

We let the people know that we did have facilities inside, that you don't have to go outside and use the restroom outside for whatever reason, behind the bush or by a tree. So we gained some momentum there. The Police Department was very helpful in sending a couple of policeman at that time who really had compassion with people. I know of a couple of policeman, they're retired now, but they wore a gun on their hip and a rosary in their pocket. So those type of policeman I needed.

The Lord puts people in your way who will help you and enable you to go forward. I really believe that. I've seen my life change. I've seen the life of many other people change. Not because of me, that's not what I'm saying. I'm just saying that I've seen the goodness in people, and there's a lot of goodness in people. Not everybody is bad. Many people have got a direction that they've lost. Many people have got love in their heart and love for one another, but they've been hurt themselves. They've been pushed back into a corner, many of them self-inflicted, many of them born that way, many of them not being able to communicate with anybody.

Fortunately, we've had the help of other agencies and the Police Department, and I praise them because they do so much good work in our community, but so do the caregivers. So do the nursing staff, social services that we have in the community. There are all kinds of ways to help people. If that person is receptive to your help or if they tell you that they need help, that's when you really want to jump up and you just want to say, "Sure," and just go forward and help them every which way you can with whatever their needs are.

I don't mean a referral. I don't mean give them a piece of paper with somebody's name on it, "Here, go see them," to wash your hands of it. No, that's not what I mean. I mean sometimes you've got to be hands-on. There are a lot of people who can't think for themselves. A lot of people can't read or write. Older people, white, black, brown, it doesn't matter. There are a lot of people who need help. A lot of people shy away from a person like you [addressing the interviewer] because you're carrying a clipboard, because you're carrying questions. They'll shy away from you because they're afraid of you.

You're a little girl. Why would they be afraid of you? They're afraid of you because they are afraid of what you represent. You have questions. They don't know the answers. They're afraid they're going to have to sign something, and they don't know what they're signing. Consequently, a lot of these people stay in the background where they are now. Many people have got family issues so they can't go back to their families, or maybe they're wanted by the Police Department in some other state, some other community. Not everybody is squeaky clean, right? So, skeletons in closets, I think everybody's got them. I hope you [addressing the recorder] hear this.

But the thing is that the people in the community, at one point, were not receptive at all, the ones here on Fourth Street. Then it became more prevalent to them that, you know, we're here to help people. We're not here to hurt people. We're not here to engage in arresting people. We're not here engaged to finding out who you are, why you are. No. We're here to help you if you want the help.

In our agency here, our door swings open. I told you yesterday, we do not take names here. We don't preach here. I don't care if I know you or not. You want to tell me your name, fine. You can tell me your name. You don't want to tell me your name, don't tell me your name. I ask two things of you, that's all, when you come here, and that's keep your hands to yourself, no fighting, that's all. Enjoy your meal. Sit down with your tray, enjoy your meal, and leave. That sounds cold, but that's exactly what we do.

If you want to stay around, if you say, "I need to go to the doctor," I'll take you. "I need to go see a priest or a nun. I need to go to church," I'll take you. I'm your boy. I want to do that. "I need a job." I'll find you a job. "I need clothes." I'll get you clothes. I don't want anything from you. But this is who I am. I want to help you if you want help.

Underhill: Now, you say your two rules are keep your hands to yourself and no fighting. How do you police that? Do you have security or anything like that?

Trevino: We used to have security. With the economic sanctions that the city went through, the reserve officers that they had are no longer in the community. We used to pay for that type of security, but we don't have that anymore. We have had our own private security, but that doesn't seem to work, either. We kind of go on the merits of goodness from everybody, and we try to stop everything. I think in six years we've called the Police Department five times, because we've needed the Police Department here to take away an element that was harassing somebody else, and I mean bodily harassment, something that we could not control. Other than that, we try to dissuade everything and not have any problems.

You noticed yesterday two people yelling at each other and so on. It's best to tone that down and not be aggressive with those types of people or with anybody, because aggression just brings higher aggression. I really believe in being able to talk with people and communicate with people. I think to myself, "What would Jesus do? How would He handle this?" Did He ever have fisticuffs with anybody? I don't think so. I think He picked up a table and threw it at somebody one time, something like that that's in the Bible, but I don't believe that there were any fisticuffs or karate chops or anything like that from Him.

Jesus was a lamb. He was a giver. He was love. I'm talking about all the volunteers who come here because, as you noticed yesterday, they all made light of what had happened, and this yelling and screaming, as soon as it started, it was over. If we build on it, it gets bigger.

Underhill: So how many people do you employ or are under your employ?

Trevino: Right now, at the present time, there are eight of us. There used to be ten. It got down to four. Then I was able to get other people in here but only on part-time basis and, of course, we use volunteers.

Underhill: What is your workday like? How many hours are you here or how many hours go into preparing that single meal?

Trevino: For me personally or the whole staff?

Underhill: The whole staff.

Trevino: We start at 8:00 in the morning. This is a regular day. We start at 8:00 in the morning, and our meal is at 11:15 to 11:30, that's when we open the doors. We have three hours to make a meal. We have specialty equipment. We've got that giant soup pot that you saw; it's a steam kettle. Then next to that is a tilting skillet. That is called a brazier.

So what they do here in the back part of the kitchen, is they cut everything for me, they put everything together for me, and then I come around the following day or that afternoon or morning and I piece it together. I try to make it palatable to where everybody can enjoy it, remembering that I have to have so many servings from that one unit to satisfy everybody. When I say satisfy everybody, I'm a stickler for portion control. Why? Because this is what creates problems for the people who are standing in line. They see one plate that gets so much and another plate that gets so little. Well, if it's the plate that they're getting and it looks so little to them, then they say, "Why didn't I get more?"

I want to avoid all of that. Everybody is treated equally, number one. Everybody gets the same portion. Nobody's going to go away hungry. They're going to have a meal, they're going to be satisfied. If they're not satisfied, I will make sure that they get something else to satisfy them. I may not possibly be able to give them the same tray with everything on it because I don't have enough of that for everybody. I do have enough of that to give you, once, the entire tray, and that's the starch, the main entrée, the vegetable, the milk, the coffee, whatever I have there. What I can do if you're still hungry is wait for me in the lobby where we feed the people who come in late—and there are many of those; for whatever reasons, they come in late—and you can get a sandwich to go. We'll do that. But to give you the same amount as I gave you already, I don't have enough groceries for that.

Underhill: What do you hope for the future of the St. Vincent's Dining Room? Like you said, you want to open an evening meal, but is there anything else you would like to expand or provide more services?

Trevino: I believe that with the economy the way it is, we are constantly seeing new faces that come to use our facility. The economy the way it should be, that I think it should be, we shouldn't be feeding anybody. That would mean in a perfect world everybody would be in their rightful place, everybody would be, economically speaking, solvent. I don't think that that's going to happen. I don't think that that's going to happen to the tune of everybody being put in their rightful place. So I think there's always going to be a need for us, but hopefully there'll be a lesser need because people will be able to enable themselves to go forward, enable themselves to be more productive in their own life, for themselves, not for anybody else but for themselves.

Again I bring out the fact that many of these people can't read or write. Many of these people are older. Many of these people are, for one reason or another, mentally handicapped. I want to help everybody. I want to put everybody in my life, in my world, in my heart, in my mind, I want to put everybody where they want to be and be productive for themselves for a future.

I think Jesus wanted to do that. Jesus gave us choices. We have choices to make daily. So consequently, we don't always make the right choices, and whether we think we do, whether we love right, whether we love wrong, who knows, but trying to help people is a big thing. It's an easy thing for some people. I find it easy trying to help people. A lot of people don't know what to do.

I get a lot of volunteers here, ladies who wear a \$400 pair of high heels. I have men who have \$1,000 suits who come here to volunteer. They volunteer five minutes and they're crying. I bring them to the back here and console them and tell them this is why we're doing this. The Holy Spirit is touching your heart. This is the goodness in you. The goodness in God, this is coming through. Many of these people leave before the lunch hour is here. Some I never see again. Some will call me and want to come back again and say, "I want to do this. I want to do this."

I say, "Okay. Why do you want to do this?"

"Because I want to help people."

I say, "You know what? You need help, too." I need help daily.

So we do this for everybody else, not just for you, not just for me, but you do this for yourself. When it comes out from yourself and you get to know yourself, you'll be able to love others.

Underhill: That's beautiful. Thank you. So these questions are more about the area specifically. Do you have an opinion on the motels in the area or how they affect the people you serve? Do you have any opinion on that?

Trevino: Some people stay in motels. Many people stay on the ground. Many people can't afford the motels. Whenever a motel gets burned down, we lose more bedding, more areas for people to go to. We lost the Mitzpah. The Mitzpah was a huge area for a lot of the people that we feed. They didn't have cooking facilities there. However, it was shelter for them. Many of them are retired, many of them are on Social Security where they do get some type of benefit every month so they can pay their rent for two weeks at least, and they're in those motels for at least two weeks. The rest of the time, they're on the street.

I would like to see more shelters. I would like to see more housing, but I don't believe that that's in the immediate future. As we go forward, to 2012, 2013 and so on, I don't see much help there for people. I wish there was. I think the motels that are there need to be cleaned a lot for anybody and everybody. We lost many motels there right across the street on Virginia Street, right across from Circus Circus. Those are all shut down because there's going to be building built there. Another casino, I guess. But we lost three motels there. With those three motels, there were seven hundred rooms.

So that's another seven hundred gone. We do not necessarily need more shelters. We need motels, we need hotels, we need low-income housing, but we can't afford low-income housing for everybody. But we do need that type of housing.

Underhill: Do you think transportation issues play a big role in the health of Fourth Street corridor or what is the biggest transportation need in the corridor? Would it be like better busing or bike routes or anything like that?

Trevino: I don't think I'm the person to answer something like that because I know very little of it. I do know that people complain about the cost of taking rides now from their home or from one destination to another. I believe that there's a reason why they have these set rules of certain hours when people can use certain transfer tickets. I believe that's an issue with many people who they are not able to meet that, even though they already paid for the ticket. I don't know. I'm very sorry. I don't know how much it costs, a dollar-fifty or a dollar-seventy or if it costs seventy cents. I don't know what the cost is for the ride. But one of the biggest complaints that I hear is that they're on a time limit and a time frame, and they really can't be assisted that way correctly.

Underhill: Do you know of any safety issues in the corridors, any blind spots?

Trevino: I believe we need more police traffic. We need patrolmen. We need that type in our area, in about a five-block radius, we do need that. That's from the other side of the ballpark all the way to, let's say, the university. Let's say from Virginia Street all the way down to Wells, in that whole area. This is more centrally located, and at any given time there are problems and there are dark areas, like you mentioned.

Underhill: Do you think the number or arrangement of lanes for cars and buses should be modified? Would a turning lane or anything like that be helpful?

Trevino: No, I don't see that. I see that the Fire Department moved here a block away from us, and I don't think that was a very good move in our community because it just congests the area more. We have the train tracks that use Fourth Street. I've seen where the Fire Department has tried to come out and drive on Fourth Street headed west. They can't because the train is parked there. So it was a very bad move. That was not handled correctly.

Underhill: What would you like to see for pedestrians or bicyclists in this corridor? Any improvements or anything that can be done to make their traveling easier?

Trevino: The area around here needs a professional company to come and monitor this for at least sixty to ninety days, and at the same time every day, the same time every night, to monitor and see where the congestion is, where the traffic rage happens with many of the people who are walking. Remember, at lunchtime we have over eight hundred people walking the streets here at the end of the month. So you can't tell me that that doesn't bring out problems with people who are traveling.

Underhill: One more question. Would you like to see parking on the street changed in any way? On-street parking, parallel or diagonal, would that affect you in any way?

Trevino: There's no room in this area for parking. It's just not feasible. That does not work in this whole five- or six-block area.

Underhill: Well, thank you very much.

Trevino: Thank you.