

Welcome to Downtown Lafayette Summit 2

1. Downtown Vision Draft
2. Concepts for Downtown
3. Action Ideas

Tonight we are looking for your input on specific concepts and actions for downtown. Following the presentation, you'll have an opportunity to “vote” for the concepts you like, prioritize action ideas, and provide feedback.

Your feedback will help inform the development of the Downtown Framework Plan. Thank you for participating!

Downtown Vision Draft

The intent of the Downtown Lafayette Strategic Framework Plan is to set in motion the transformation of downtown Lafayette into one of the most engaging, colorful and eclectic urban settings in the nation. Twenty years from now, the implementation of this Plan will have redefined downtown Lafayette in four fundamental ways:

As the Heartbeat of Acadiana

In many ways and more than ever, downtown is the heartbeat of our city, parish and region, pulsing to the rich vibe and distinct flavor of Acadiana —a vivid sensory experience that resonates with the unique rhythms, sounds, flavors and colors of our community.

We have become a destination of choice for cultural tourism. Our visitors are attracted from all over the region and beyond for the strength of our museums and the originality of our art galleries, as well as for the scope of performances, special events and festivals that fill our playhouses, our parcs, the Acadiana Center for the Arts, and new outdoor and indoor cultural venues throughout downtown all year long.

An abundance of eclectic downtown hotels accommodates leisure and business travelers alike. First-rate conference facilities located within easy walking distance of dining, retail and entertainment (coupled with increased ease of transportation access in and out of Lafayette) support our position as the cultural heart of our region.

The presence of these facilities also reinforces our role as the region's major center of business, attractive to large employers but also welcoming to local entrepreneurs and small business owners. In our downtown, these entrepreneurs find a fertile environment for innovation as well as strong support from a business friendly Lafayette Consolidated Government.

As a Vibrant Urban Place

We have succeeded in re-knitting our urban fabric, filling the former gaps of surface parking and other underutilized or vacant sites with compelling, exciting mixed use developments that complement and enhance the historic foundation of our downtown.

Our central business district has become the region's destination for specialty retail, dining and entertainment, with unique shops, boutiques, restaurants and services thriving along key corridors, including but not limited to Jefferson Street, Buchanan Street, and Lee Avenue.

Our civic realm reflects our status as a cultural destination, with wide sidewalks and lush streetscapes of native trees, lighting and seating, punctuated by new green spaces, formal plazas and fountains designed to highlight and celebrate our distinct character and ambiance. This civic realm is also activated by well-designed private spaces that accommodate outdoor dining and open air cafes and galleries, and by a high level of pedestrian and bicycle activity.

As a Thriving “Urban Neighborhood”

A wide array of new housing developed throughout downtown appeals to our growing and diverse population. Detached, semi-detached and attached houses, multiplexes, apartments, lofts, live/work units, secondary units and other innovative housing types accommodate the diversity of families and households of all generations and incomes who want to live, work and play in downtown.

With the influx of additional population, the neighborhood infrastructure of our downtown has expanded incrementally, to the point where today we can sustain, and be sustained by, the kinds of businesses that serve the needs of downtown residents: grocers and farmers markets, a great variety of restaurants, convenience retail, services and entertainment; schools, parks and recreational activities for people of all ages.

A high level of daytime and nighttime activity, combined with the eyes-on-the-street care and close-knit fabric of our residents, have made downtown one of Lafayette’s safest and friendliest neighborhoods.

As a Dynamic, Connected Center

Once barriers closing off downtown, University Avenue, Johnston Street and Congress Street have become scenic, pedestrian and bicycle friendly “seams” –shaded avenues linking downtown to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) campus, Freetown-Port Rico, Saints Streets, La Place, McComb-Veazey and other nearby neighborhoods.

Major intersections have become vibrantly landscaped gateways, announcing to visitors that they are entering a special location. Colorful new way-finding signage and information kiosks throughout downtown enable visitors to easily navigate our many attractions and landmarks.

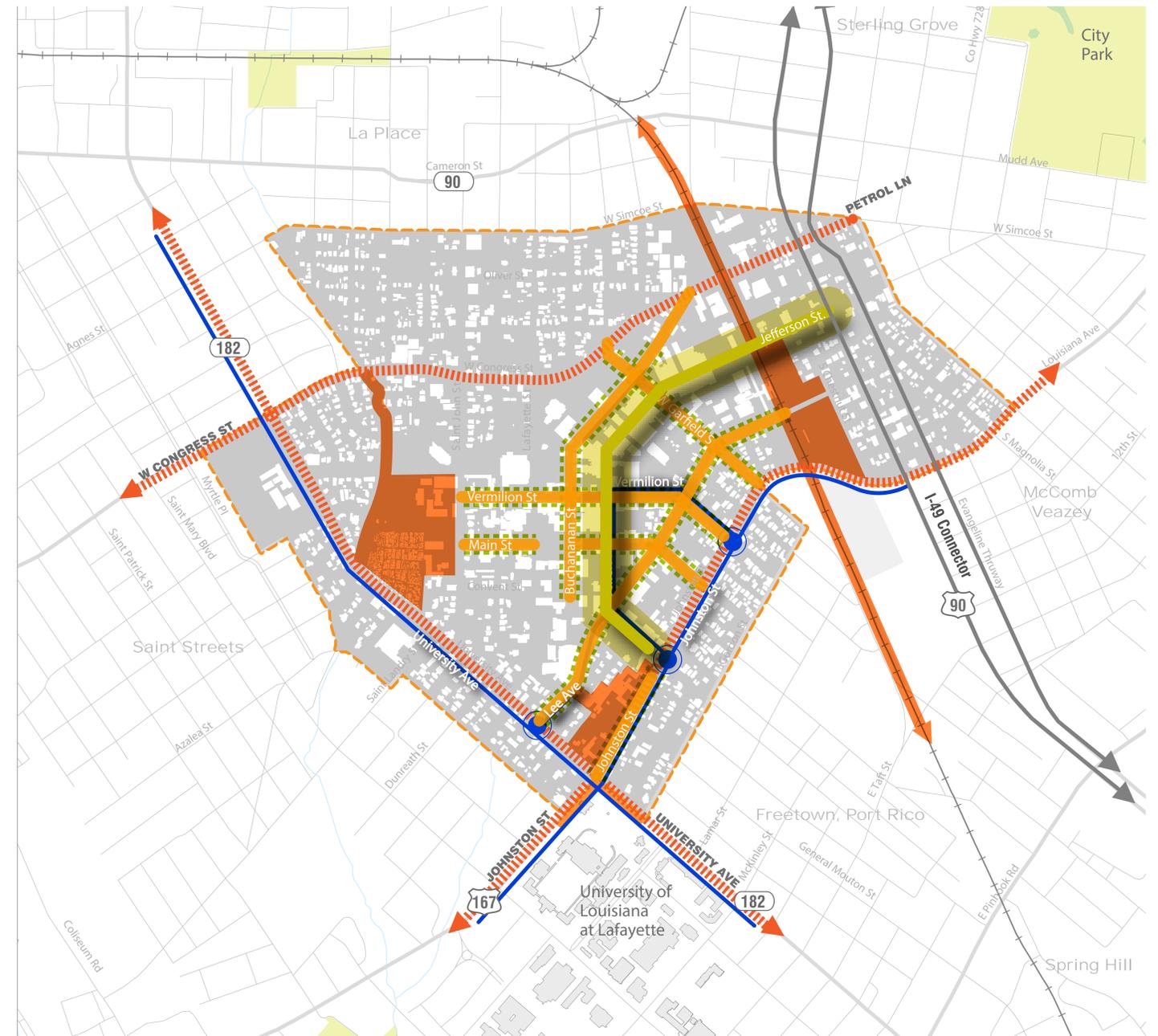
Many coulees that crisscross the downtown and city have been adapted to accommodate trails and greenways that provide a safe, enjoyable means to walk or bicycle to and from the surrounding neighborhoods, while buses and trolleys circulate around downtown reducing the need to depend on the automobile for those who live in or visit downtown.

Our status as a major employment center is also supported by a variety of transportation modes that makes downtown easily accessible from the rest of the parish and the region, and which in turn connect us to the Oil Center, the ULL campus, the Lafayette Regional Airport, Lafayette Central Park, and other city and parish destinations.

CONCEPTS

1. Reinforce Existing Paths into the Downtown from Adjacent Neighborhoods

-  • Improve mixed-use corridors and encourage infill development
-  • Protect Jefferson's character and encourage infill development
-  • Improve streetscape with creative solutions



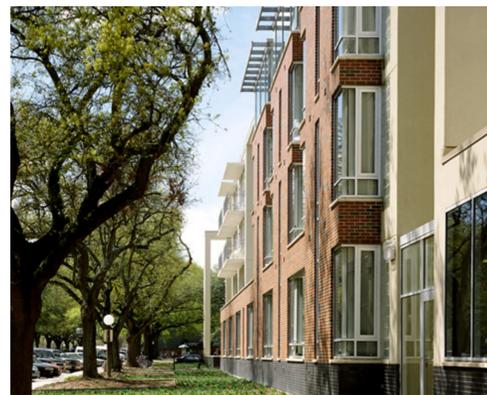
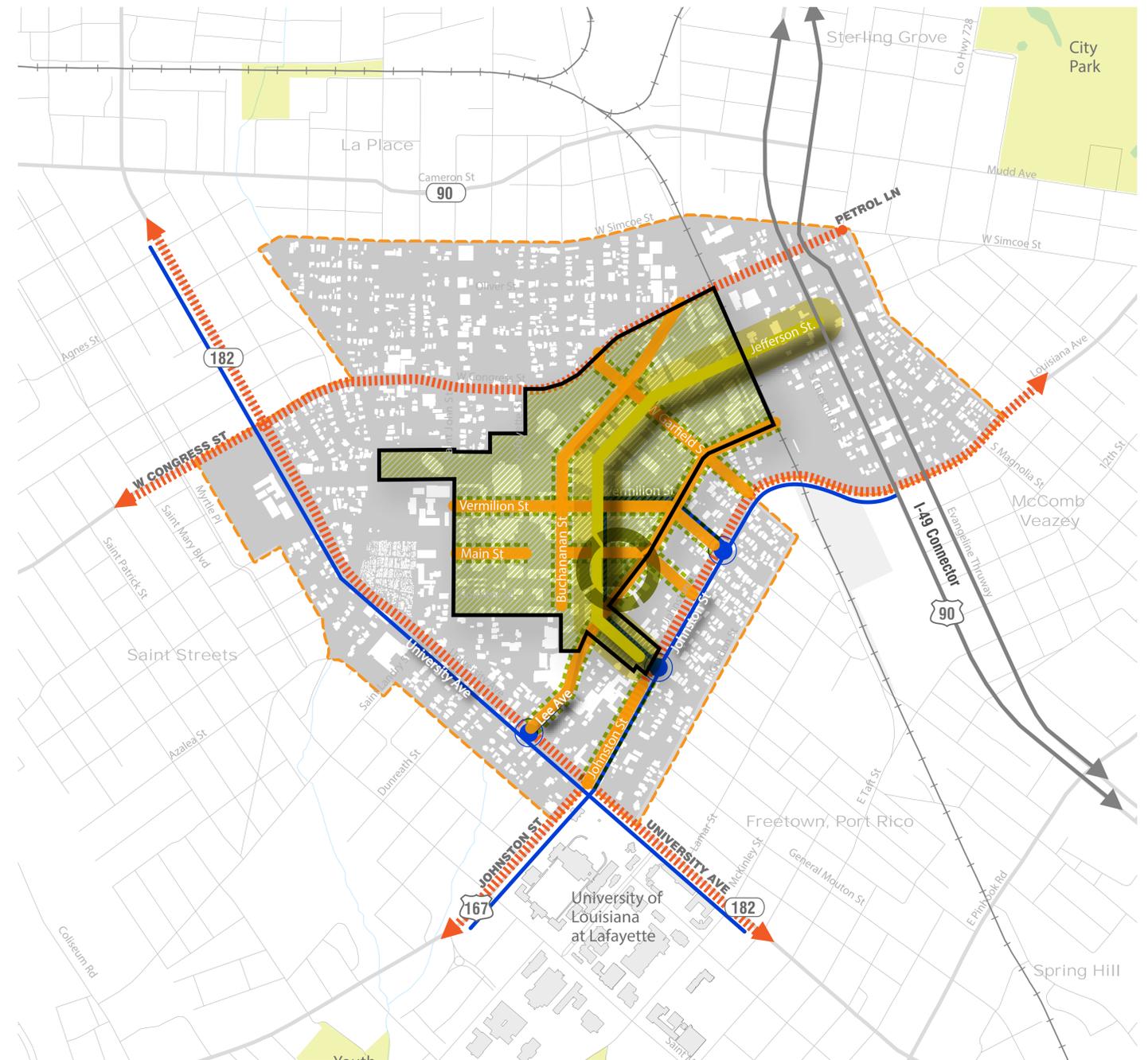
VOTE

CONCEPTS

2. Focus Redevelopment Efforts on the Core



- Start from the center (around the extended mixed-use corridors)
- Capitalize on the Federal Courthouse site as a means of introducing new multi-family residential into downtown
- Provide a variety of housing choices
- Better parking options
- Capitalize on office workers' demand for more convenience goods within the core



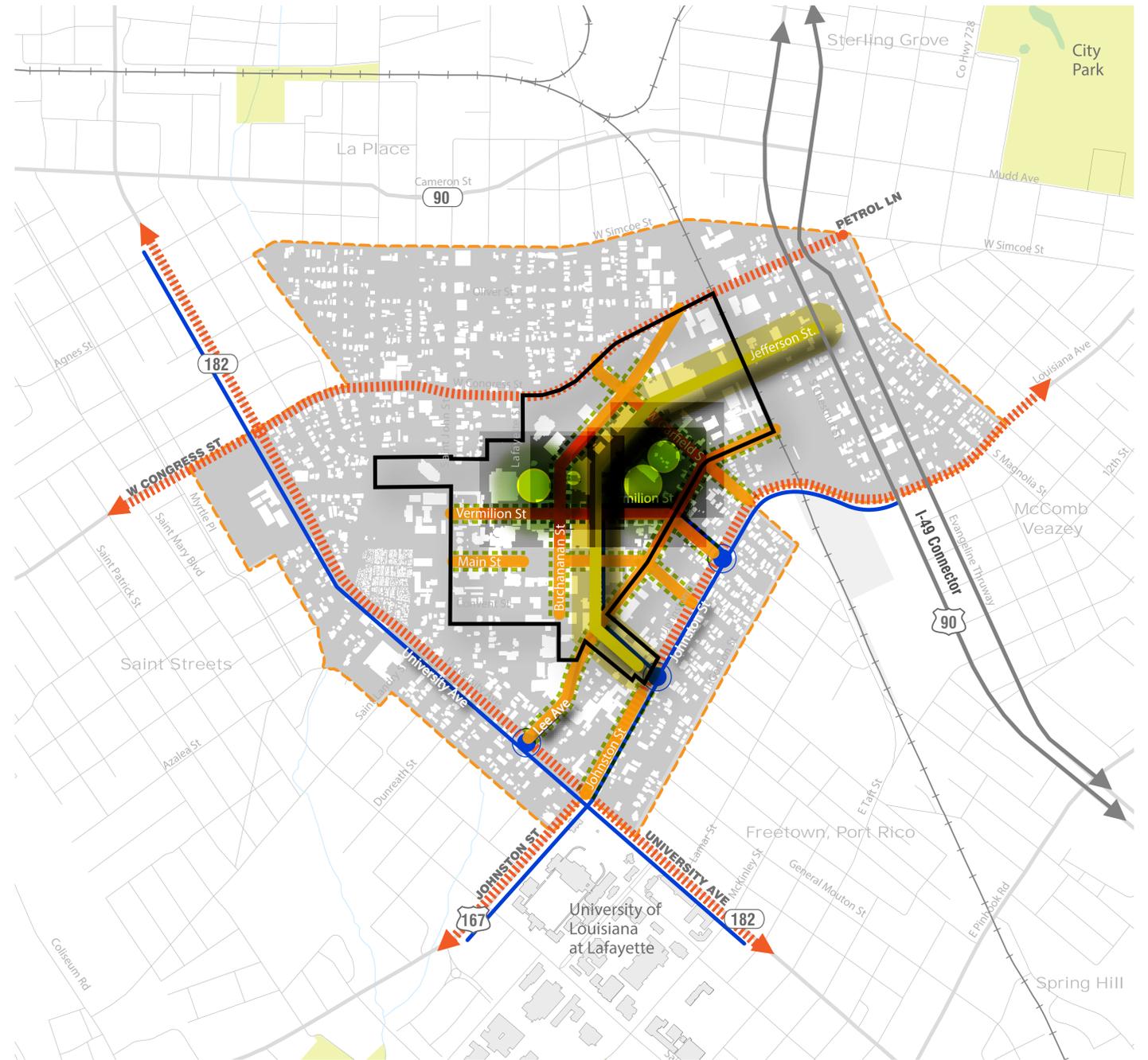
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CONCEPTS

3. Increase the Variety of Open Space



- Activate existing parks
- Create new parks



VOTE

CONCEPTS

4. Enhance Mobility with New Paths and Better Entrances

-  • Pedestrian paths
-  • Bicycle paths
-  • Better entrances
- Transit loop



VOTE

5. Improve Connections from Downtown to ULL



- Extend retail character and uses on Jefferson and Johnston

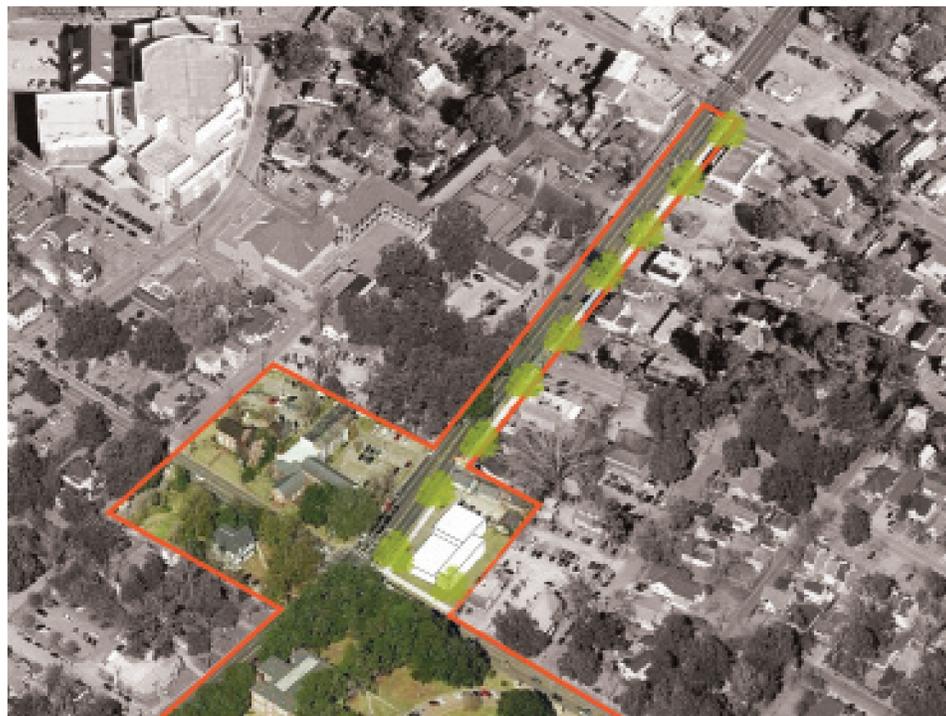


- Connect McKinley to Jefferson and Vermilion

- Redevelop properties fronting intersection including the Domino's site

- Widen sidewalks on East side of Johnston

- Reconfigure Johnston and University



VOTE

Prioritize Action Items

Tell us what is most important to you. Review the actions ideas below, and vote for your top four in order of priority (1 = highest).

Mobility and Reinforcing Connections

- Establish a zoning hierarchy of streets to include mixed-use corridors and new connections to ULL and Freetown
- Establish bicycle and pedestrian paths
- Develop a Transit Study to connect ULL to the Downtown
- Evaluate solutions for improving pedestrian connections across Johnston and University to the Downtown including property development

Land Use/Activity Patterns

- Establish Zoning Districts
- Create a zoning overlay to protect Jefferson and Vermilion
- Create incentives to promote development within the core with a focus on mixed use residential
- Create a strategy to redevelop the Federal Courthouse site
- Develop a parking strategy

Placemaking & Urban Design

- Identify parks and recreation needs in the downtown
- Establish criteria for building design
- Develop new sidewalks, pedestrian amenities, & street furniture
- Develop strategies to improve downtown entrances

Other Ideas

Add your comments about the specific concepts or actions presented today. Use a post-it to add your ideas to the list.

Draft Concepts

Action Ideas

Other