

Downtown & Connectivity Plan

Siloam Springs, AR

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Area: Downtown, approx. 74 acres
Client: Main Street Siloam Springs, Inc.
Year Adopted: 2014
Website: mainstreetsiloam.org

For more information, visit doverkohl.com.

The Project

Building on the fundamental characteristics of the historic city center, Dover, Kohl & Partners led a community-based planning effort to envision future improvements for downtown Siloam Springs. An interactive design charrette that engaged residents, business owners and interested stakeholders of all ages was the centerpiece of the Downtown and Connectivity Plan. Renewed interest in downtown revitalization, coupled with a desire for improvements to walkability and cycling on area streets and trails, spurred active community participation throughout the planning process.







Existing: View from the Mt. Olive Street bridge looking east



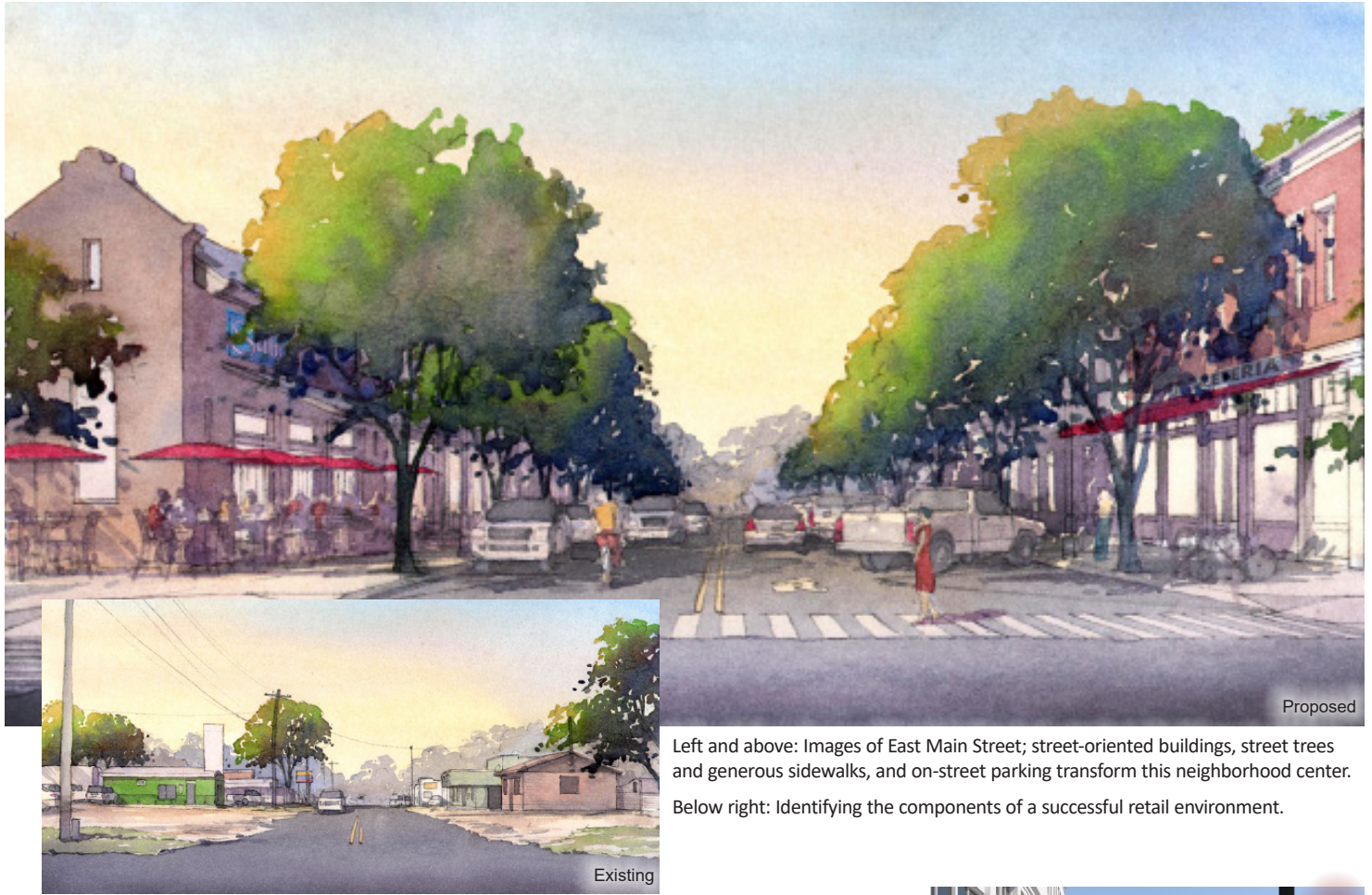
Proposed: Infill of an existing parking lot completes the row of buildings along the creek, terminating a significant entry vista along Main Street. A "road diet" on Mt. Olive Street includes a wider sidewalk along the bridge.



Legend

-  Existing Buildings
-  Infill Buildings
-  Civic Buildings
-  Parks

Envisioning the future



Left and above: Images of East Main Street; street-oriented buildings, street trees and generous sidewalks, and on-street parking transform this neighborhood center.
Below right: Identifying the components of a successful retail environment.

Reuse & Revitalize

The "big ideas" that form the cornerstones of the Plan include: rebalancing the transportation networks to encourage walking and biking as well as driving; encouraging a diverse mix of uses, promoting an active, healthy community through parks, trails, and access to healthy food; rehabilitating and reusing historic buildings as well as adding new buildings to fill "missing teeth" in the urban fabric; and capitalizing on cultural elements that make Siloam Springs unique.

The Downtown and Connectivity Plan details specific projects to implement plan goals, such as "road diets" on major streets that narrow vehicular lanes to improve walking and biking facilities, proposals for new and expanded City parks, building a permanent farmers market facility, new trails connections, improvements to the historic springs sites, and locations for additional downtown parking. The Plan identifies potential new uses for historic buildings, as well as depicts locations for infill buildings to strengthen the urban form.

Dover, Kohl & Partners collaborated with Hall Planning & Engineering, Inc. (multimodal transportation planning) and Partners for Economic Solutions (economics and implementation) to create the Plan.

Status

In August 2014, the Downtown and Connectivity Plan was unanimously approved by the Siloam Springs City Board. The plan process and approval has sparked over \$7M in public and private investment downtown, with more on the way. A road diet on the main thoroughfare through downtown was completed in 2016. Historic preservation tax credits, grants and private development funds renovated nine storefronts along the main street. The City passed a tax allocation toward downtown improvements that will help build a new 4 acre park space near a brand new downtown library in 2018.

