

Downtown

Downtown is Sumter's signature image, an impressive showplace that nurtures and affirms our sense of community, our shared hopes and history, our collective accomplishments and our civic pride. Downtown is our community's largest, most diverse employment center. Downtown is an accessible and convenient gathering place, where people come together for great food, good entertainment, shopping, recreation and culture.

Principles <i>Goals and Values</i>	Demonstration <i>Projects/Initiatives 2002-2005</i>	Expansion <i>Projects/Initiatives 2006-2008</i>	Realization <i>Projects/Initiatives 2009-13</i>	Vision <i>Of Downtown Sumter in 2013</i>
<p>A Symbolic Center <i>Bringing People Downtown</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor monthly Sumter@Six programs <input type="checkbox"/> Expand events at the Opera House <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor Downtown events for Iris Festival <input type="checkbox"/> Publish quarterly newsletter to merchants and property owners <input type="checkbox"/> Publish semi-annual downtown insert in <i>The Item</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Undertake public art project, (e.g., a sculpture that celebrates Sumter's spirit and heritage) Phase I: concept plans, funding, cost estimates, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Public Art Project, Phase II: Commission, Construction and Dedication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Downtown is the symbolic and functional heart of both the City and County of Sumter. It is Sumter's most distinctive asset and serves as an impressive showplace for the community's commitment to excellence and high quality of life. It is where Sumter began and provides a home to all of Sumter's most important facilities. Downtown is the primary gathering place for civic functions, entertainment and personal interaction.
<p>A Pedestrian Center <i>Creating a Downtown Full of Life and Energy</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> "Town Square" Phase I: Reach consensus on a specific design, cost estimates & financing plan <input type="checkbox"/> Bury utilities: Develop schedule, plans and estimates <input type="checkbox"/> Streetscape improvements at Liberty/Main Street intersection <input type="checkbox"/> Utilize signage to define Downtown district <input type="checkbox"/> Selectively prune and replace trees on Main Street <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Main Street Streetscape from Calhoun to Bartlette <input type="checkbox"/> Bury utilities, Phase I: W. Liberty & S. Main Streets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sumter Town Square, Phase II: Architectural Plans, property acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Streetscape Enhancement including intersection of Main & Bartlette <input type="checkbox"/> Enhance Intersections at Liberty and Washington, Liberty and Sumter and Liberty and Harvin <input type="checkbox"/> Utilize 2nd floor space for housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sumter Town Square, Phase III: Demolition and Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Enhance Calhoun Street intersections at Washington, Main and Harvin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Downtown Sumter is an exciting and comfortable pedestrian place with shaded walkways, busy sidewalk cafes, inviting store windows and numerous entertainment options. People from throughout the state patronize its unique lifestyle-oriented businesses and live in its many new townhomes and condos. Downtown is filled with people and activity both day and night.
<p>An Historic Center <i>Showcasing Sumter's History</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Make plans to restore derelict properties (grants, private investment, public/private partnerships, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Develop appropriate sign program, Phase I: identify problem signage and develop prototypes, implement standards for new signage <input type="checkbox"/> Place Historic Markers Downtown <input type="checkbox"/> Create a Walking Tour brochure <input type="checkbox"/> Expand Façade Program to focus on historic buildings <input type="checkbox"/> Brody Pavilion as cluster of specialty shops <input type="checkbox"/> Develop an appearance code for the central business district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sign Program, Phase II: Replace existing problem signage <input type="checkbox"/> Renovate six derelict properties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Move Government Offices from Opera House to new Main Street facility (to coincide with Town Square construction) <input type="checkbox"/> Rent vacated Opera House space to arts and entertainment-oriented businesses/organizations <input type="checkbox"/> Renovate ten derelict properties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Downtown Sumter is a celebrated historic district, drawing tourists as well as local visitors. From the new "Town Square," the Opera House provides a dramatic and instantly recognizable focal point for Downtown. New buildings complement many recently restored historic structures throughout Downtown. Quality architecture, colorful streetscapes and appropriate signage come together to project an image of dignity, permanence and charm.
<p>A Strong Economic Center <i>Creating Sumter's Premier Business Center</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recruit six new businesses to locate Downtown <input type="checkbox"/> Develop detailed plan and incentives to attract retailers <input type="checkbox"/> Market low-interest loan pool for Downtown investors <input type="checkbox"/> Begin entrepreneurship program for new business <input type="checkbox"/> Complete E. Liberty Project: 2-story mixed use building <input type="checkbox"/> Complete W. Liberty Project: 3 new buildings and walkway <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Hampton@Main Project: 3 new buildings <input type="checkbox"/> Downtown Technology Center, Phase I: convert Federal Building to information systems training center <input type="checkbox"/> Start entertainment/retail clustering at Main & Liberty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recruit ten new businesses to locate <input type="checkbox"/> Downtown Technology Center, Phase II: Construction of main building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recruit twenty new businesses to Downtown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Downtown is home to Sumter's largest and most diverse concentration of jobs and businesses. New government, professional and medical offices intermingled with an ever-increasing number of downtown homes have generated a host of new locally-owned shops and restaurants. People from all over the state participate in special events held in the new Town Square and enjoy the arts and cultural offerings.
<p>An Accessible Center <i>Improving Linkages and Parking</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Complete parking lot renovations (paving, landscaping and lighting): <input type="checkbox"/> Lot #1 Harvin Street <input type="checkbox"/> Lot #2 S. Main & W. Liberty <input type="checkbox"/> Lot #3 N. Main & W. Liberty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Parking Lot #4 resurfacing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping and pedestrian amenities on Liberty to link Downtown and Swan Lake Iris Gardens <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping and pedestrian amenities on North Main to link Downtown and Morris College 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Downtown is the most accessible and convenient place in Sumter County to live, work, learn and play... Downtown is linked to key institutions and attractions in other parts of the City and County by attractive boulevards, pedestrian paths and bicycle trails. Beautifully landscaped and well-lit parking lots create an atmosphere of comfort, safety and convenience.