



DOWNTOWN FOREST PARK

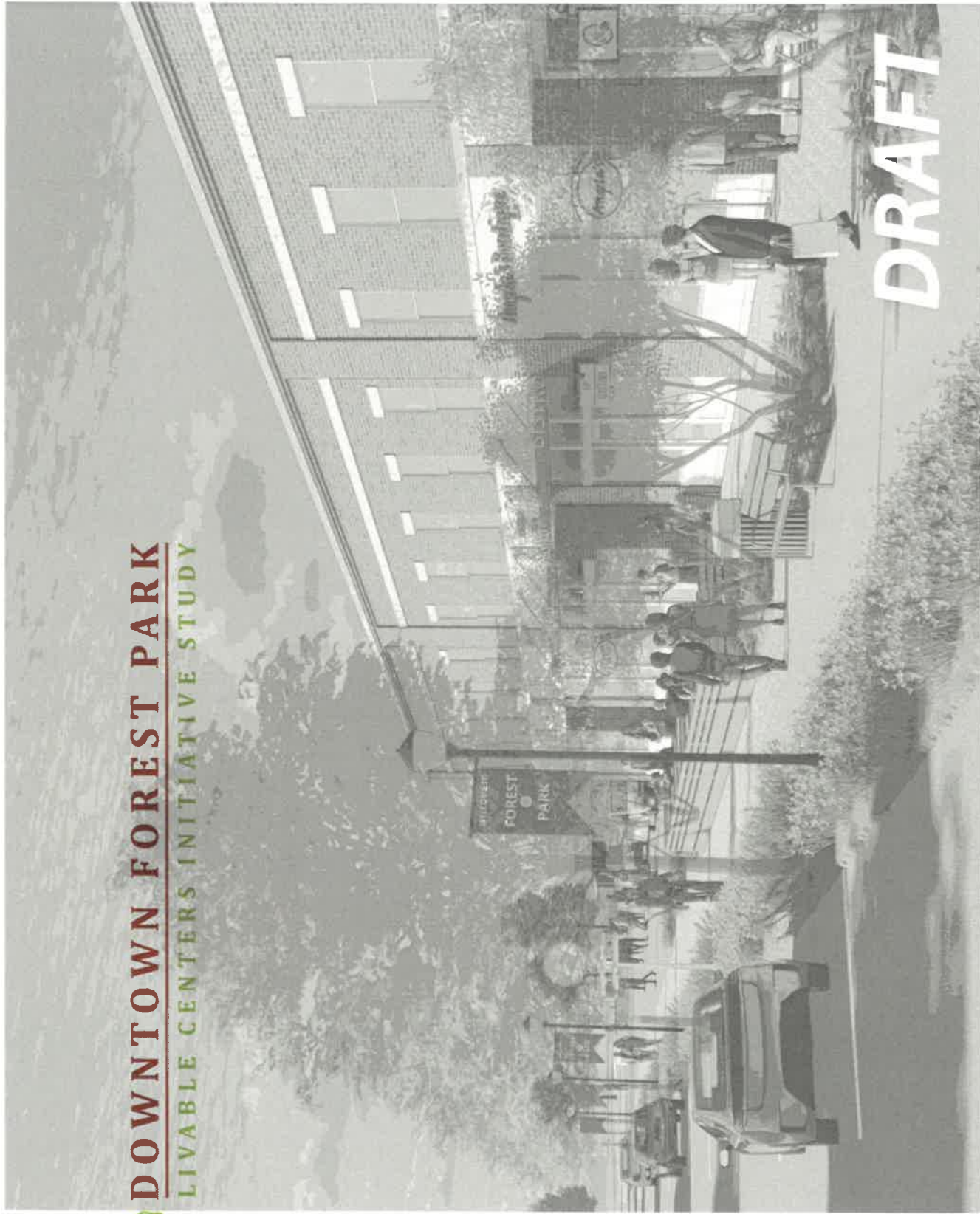
LIVABLE CENTERS INITIATIVE STUDY



Developed for the City of Forest Park and supported by Atlanta Regional Commission

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2.3 STATE OF THE BUILDINGS

STRENGTHS

- Several historic buildings exist in the Downtown historic core on Main Street

ISSUES

- About 15%-20% of the buildings are unoccupied and in substandard or dilapidated condition
- The abundance of vacant / unoccupied properties and substandard building conditions creates an unwelcoming environment on Main Street.

NEEDS/OPPORTUNITIES

- Create continuous building frontage and mix of uses on Main Street through development and redevelopment strategies
- Concentration of vacant properties and vacant buildings along Main Street between College Street and Phillips Drive represents potential development opportunities
- Adaptive re-use of existing buildings such as the Old Theater and several commercial buildings on Main Street

BUILDING OCCUPANCY



BUILDING CONDITION



UNOCCUPIED
Carters Cleaners and Laundry on Main Street



PARTIALLY OCCUPIED
Strip mall along Main Street



UNOCCUPIED
Vacant building on Main Street



STANDARD
Clayton County Housing Authority on Main Street



DETERIORATED
Old theater building on Main Street



SUBSTANDARD
Forest Park Community Shopping Center on Main Street



REHABILITATED
Single family home on Courtney Dr

Traditional Downtown Core

MAIN STREET ACTIVE STOREFRONT VISION



EXISTING MAIN STREET LOOKING WEST NEAR CARTERS CLEANERS & LAUNDRY



EXTENSION OF OUTDOOR PLAZA FOR FOOD TRUCKS

OUTDOOR DINING AND SEATING

STREET FURNITURE AND LANDSCAPING

POTENTIAL MULTI-TENANT RETAIL STOREFRONTS ON MAIN STREET

ON-STREET PARKING ON MAIN STREET

LANDSCAPE/FURNITURE ZONE WITH PEDESTRIAN LIGHT AND TREES

MULTI-USE PATH WITH PEDESTRIAN & BIKE AMENITIES

Note: Concept is not for illustration purposes only and not an actual site development proposal.

MAIN STREET REDEVELOPMENT VISION



EXISTING MAIN STREET LOOKING WEST NEAR FOREST PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH



POTENTIAL 3-4 STORY MULTI-FAMILY/CONDO BUILDING FRONTAGE ALIGNED WITH EXISTING BUILDINGS ON MAIN STREET

PEDESTRIAN CONNECTION TO RESIDENTIAL AND PARKING ON THE REAR

LANDSCAPE/FURNITURE ZONE WITH PEDESTRIAN LIGHTS AND TREES

MULTI-USE PATH WITH PEDESTRIAN & BIKE AMENITIES

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OUTDOOR SEATING
COMMUNITY GREEN SPACE ALONG MAIN STREET
RESIDENTIAL AMENITIES FACING THE COMMUNITY GREEN



DOWNTOWN FOREST PARK
LIVING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET

Forest Parkway Improvements



Forest Parkway is a regional road managed by Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) but at the local level it serves as a gateway into Downtown and the main connector to Starr Park. The current roadway is designed to handle a large volume of traffic with two lanes in both directions, a turn lane, and deceleration lanes (+/- 90 ft curb to curb). Even with traffic signals and pedestrian lights, it feels unsafe to cross Forest Parkway. The lack of pedestrian safety is exacerbated by the large railroad right-of-way (+/- 160 ft wide). The combined right-of-way is +/- 250 ft with traffic and at-grade crossing creating an unsafe and uninviting pedestrian crossing.

Considering the community input and several precedents in Metro Atlanta, the feasibility for a pedestrian bridge could be explored at the intersection of Forest Parkway and Lake Drive. There are two potential location options illustrated in the diagram. Since Model Mile Trail crosses at the same location connecting Starr Park and Downtown, a ped-bike bridge could be a viable option at least from the usability standpoint; however, the implementation of the bridge may be contingent upon more activities in Downtown. The bridge could be a signature gateway feature for the City and Downtown.

Regardless of the bridge, Forest Parkway could be improved for pedestrian safety by including refuge island and safe crossings at the intersections, wider sidewalks/multi-use path, bus shelter, and landscaping.



PEDESTRIAN & MODEL MILE BRIDGE WITH GATEWAY SIGN

REFUGE ISLAND FOR SAFE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

BUS SHELTER

WIDER SIDEWALK/MULTI-USE PATH WITH PEDESTRIAN AMENITIES

EXISTING STRIPING FOR BUS STOP AND TURN LANE

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Pedestrian Bridge Example, Peachtree Corners Town Center

